Post-processing pipeline

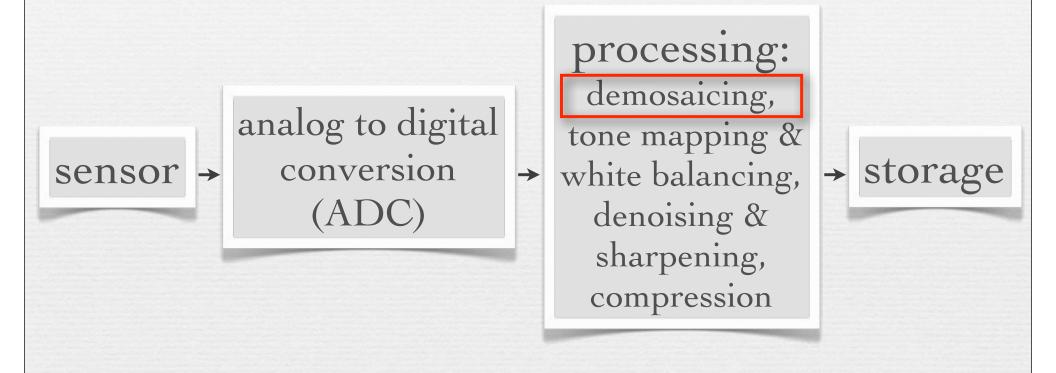
CS 178, Spring 2010



Begun 5/27/10. Finished 6/1/10, and recap slides added throughout.

Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

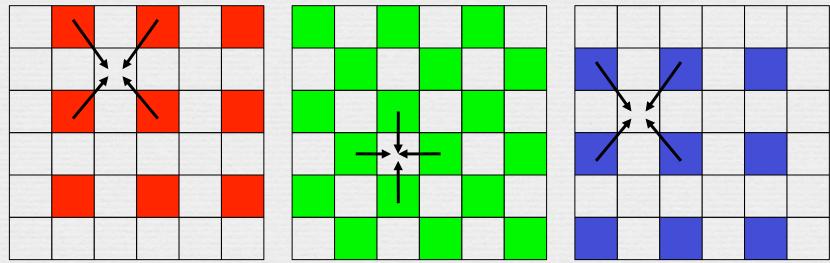
Camera pixel pipeline



- every camera uses different algorithms
- the processing order may vary
- → most of it is proprietary

Demosaicing (review)

- → linear interpolation
 - average of the 4 nearest neighbors of the same color
- → cameras typically use more complicated scheme
 - try to avoid interpolating across feature boundaries
 - demosaicing is often combined with denoising, sharpening...



Demosaicing errors

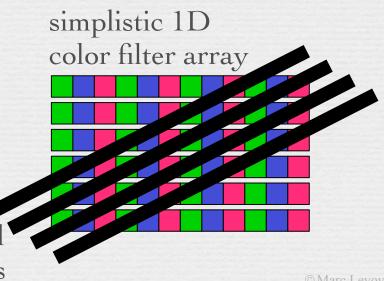
color fringes
 or moiré





- + the cause of color moiré
 - fine black and white detail in scene is mis-interpreted by interpolation algorithm as color information

fine diagonal B&W stripes

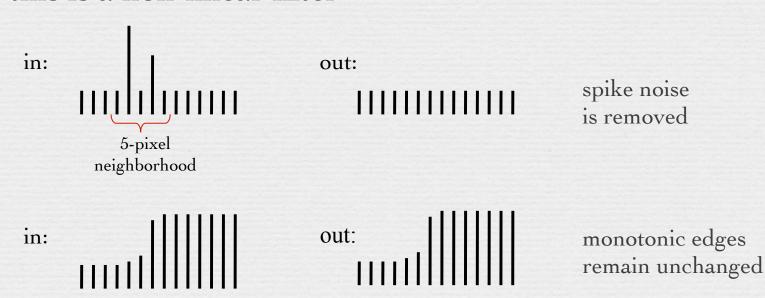


Common solution: low-pass filter chrominance signal

→ color artifacts are places where <u>chrominance</u> changes abruptly (due to interpolation errors) but only transiently

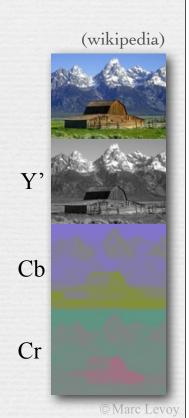
Common solution: low-pass filter chrominance signal

- color artifacts are places where <u>chrominance</u> changes abruptly (due to interpolation errors) but only transiently
- use a median filter on chrominance to remove outlier transient chrominance changes [Freeman 1988]
 - replace the chrominance of each pixel by the median value in a neighborhood
 - this is a non-linear filter



Common solution: low-pass filter chrominance signal

- * color artifacts are places where chrominance changes abruptly (due to interpolation errors) but only transiently
- ◆ use a median filter on chrominance to remove outlier transient chrominance changes [Freeman 1988]
 - replace the chrominance of each pixel by the median value in a neighborhood
 - this is a non-linear filter
- summary of algorithm
 - 1. apply naive interpolation
 - 2. convert to Y'CbCr
 - 3. median filter Cr & Cb
 - 4. reconstruct R, G, B from sensor value and filtered Cr & Cb



Comparison

(crop from larger image)



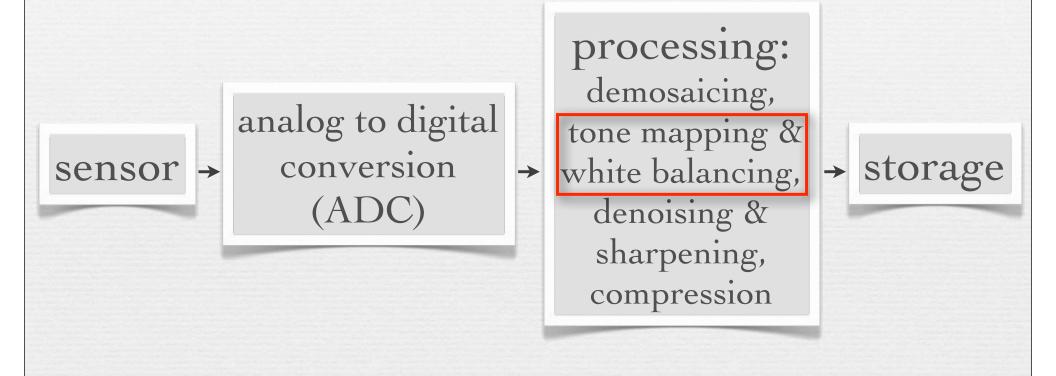
linear interpolation



median-filtered interpolation

- → take-home lesson: 2/3 of your data is made up
- + there are better and worse ways to do this

Camera pixel pipeline



White balancing (review)

- → 1. find the color temperature of the illumination as an (R,G,B)
- → 2. scale the RGB values of all pixels in the photograph up or down so that the chosen (R,G,B) becomes (1,1,1)
- ◆ the appearance of (1,1,1) depends on the camera's reference white
 - for sRGB cameras, chosen (R,G,B) will match D65 (6500°K)



Gamma and gamma correction



(FLASH DEMO)

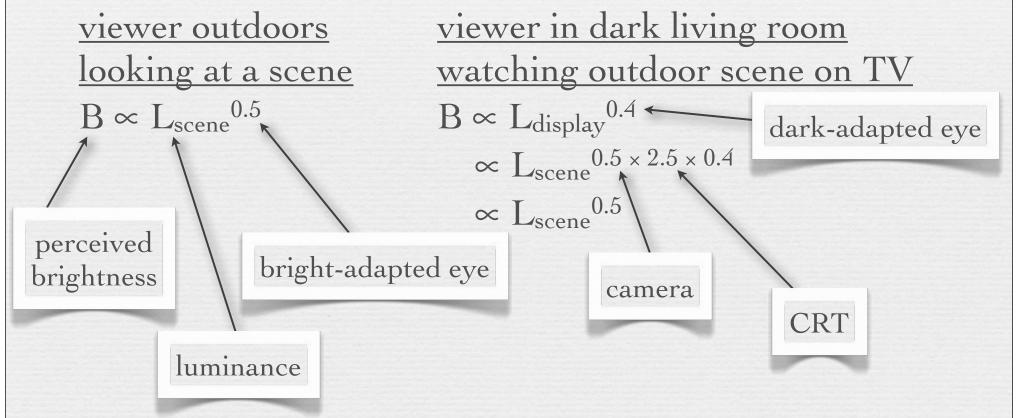
http://graphics.stanford.edu/courses/cs178/applets/gamma.html



- ♦ the goal of digital imaging is to accurately reproduce <u>relative</u> scene luminances on a display screen
 - absolute luminance is impossible to reproduce
 - humans are sensitive to relative luminance anyway
- ♦ in some workflows, pixel value is made proportional to scene luminance, in other systems to perceived brightness
 - in CRTs luminance is proportional to voltage γ with $\gamma \approx 2.5$, so TV cameras must be designed to output scene luminance γ
 - in NTSC cameras have $1/\gamma = 0.5$ to provide a residual system gamma
 - pixel value ∞ perceived brightness is perceptually uniform, so in CG and digital photography it's a good space for quantization, JPEG, etc.

System gamma

♦ why the gamma of cameras (0.5) in NTSC is higher than the inverse of the gamma of CRTs (2.5)

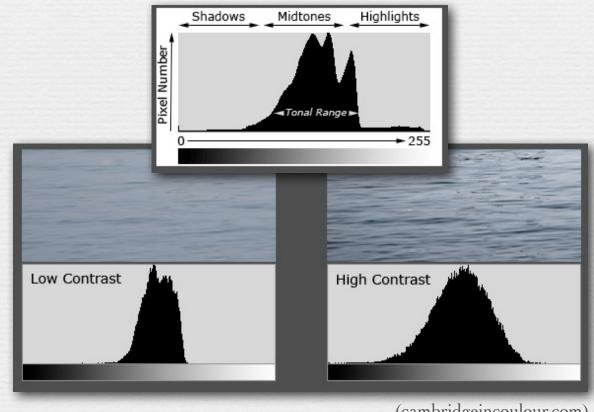


 \star camera $\gamma \times$ display $\gamma = 0.5 \times 2.5 = 1.25$ is the system gamma

manual editing

13

• capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.



- manual editing
 - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
- → gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
 - output = input $^{\gamma}$ (for $0 \le I_i \le 1$)
 - simple but crude



original



 $\gamma = 0.5$



 $\gamma = 2.0$

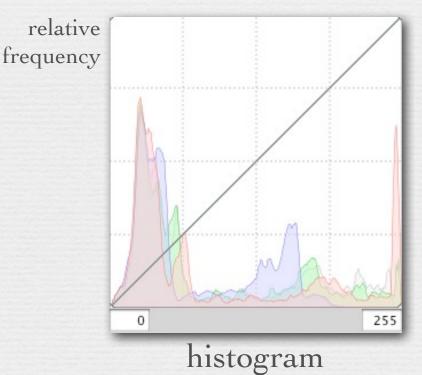
- manual editing
 - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
- ◆ gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
 - output = input $^{\gamma}$ (for $0 \le I_i \le 1$)
 - simple but crude
- → histogram equalization

Histogram equalization

- 1. convert image to L*a*b* in range [0,1]
- 2. calculate histogram of L* channel $pdf(i) = \frac{N_i}{N}$, where N_i is the number of pixels of intensity i, and N is the total number of pixels

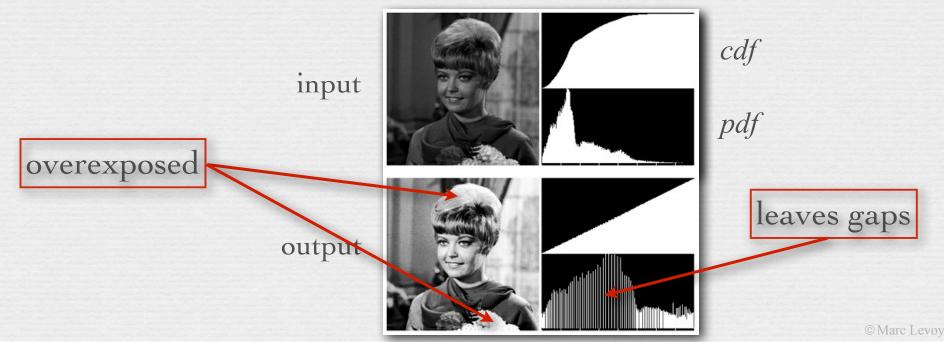


image



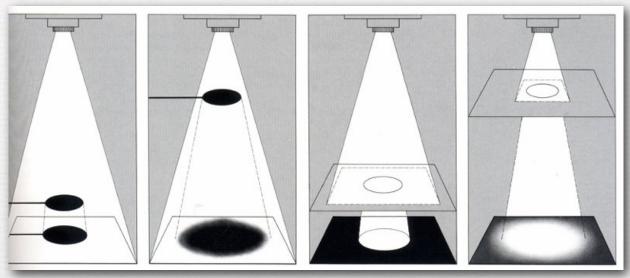
Histogram equalization

- 1. convert image to L*a*b* in range [0,1]
- 2. calculate histogram of L* channel $pdf(i) = \frac{N_i}{N}$, where N_i is the number of pixels of intensity i, and N is the total number of pixels
- 3. calculate cumulative density function $cdf(i) = \sum_{j=0}^{l} pdf(j)$
- 4. re-map each pixel using $I_{out} = cdf(I_{in}) \times 255 / N$ (for 8-bit pixels)



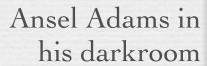
- manual editing
 - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
- ◆ gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
 - output = input $^{\gamma}$ (for $0 \le I_i \le 1$)
 - simple but crude
- → histogram equalization
- → global versus local transformations

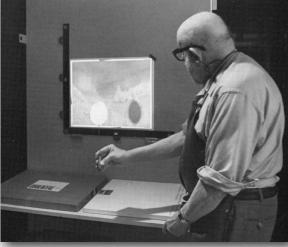
Traditional dodging and burning

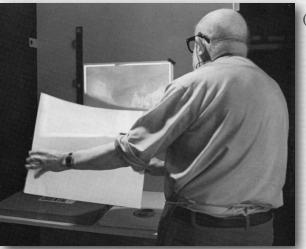


dodging (leaves print lighter)

burning (makes print darker)







(Adams)

(Rudman)



straight print

Ansel Adams, Clearing Winter Storm, 1942



toned print

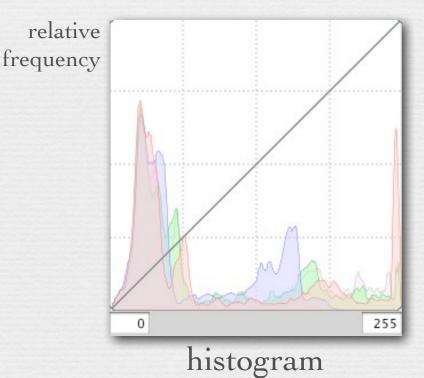
Ansel Adams, Clearing Winter Storm, 1942

Histogram equalization

- 1. convert image to L*a*b* in range [0,1]
- 2. calculate histogram of L* channel $pdf(i) = \frac{N_i}{N}$, where N_i is the number of pixels of intensity i, and N is the total number of pixels

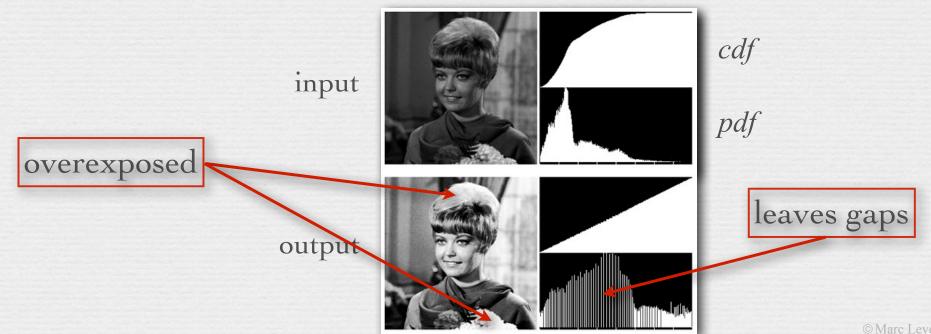


image



Histogram equalization

- 1. convert image to L*a*b* in range [0,1]
- 2. calculate histogram of L* channel $pdf(i) = \frac{N_i}{N}$, where N_i is the number of pixels of intensity i, and N is the total number of pixels
- 3. calculate cumulative density function $cdf(i) = \sum_{j=0}^{l} pdf(j)$
- 4. re-map each pixel using $I_{out} = cdf(I_{in}) \times 255 / N$ (for 8-bit pixels)



Recap

- in CRTs luminance = voltage $^{\gamma}$ where $\gamma \approx 2.5$, so television cameras output luminance $^{1/\gamma}$ to compensate
 - NTSC cameras use luminance^{0.5}, yielding a *system gamma*, to compensate for human ∂ark adaptation during viewing
- digital cameras also gamma transform sensed pixels before storing them in JPEG files
 - while this matches television cameras, another good reason is perceptual uniformity, thereby reducing quantization artifacts
 - for sRGB cameras, $\gamma = 1/2.2$
- ◆ tone mapping methods may include
 - contrast expansion
 - additional gamma mapping
 - histogram equalization
 - local methods, like dodging & burning

Questions?

High dynamic range imaging (review)

- → step 1: capturing HDR images



* step 2b: tone mapping to create an LDR image for display

→ goals of tone mapping

• squeeze 12 bits of sensor into 8 bits of JPEG

• or squeeze >12 of HDR image into 8 bits of JPEG

• apply mapping for human adaption if scene was very dark

• or bright...

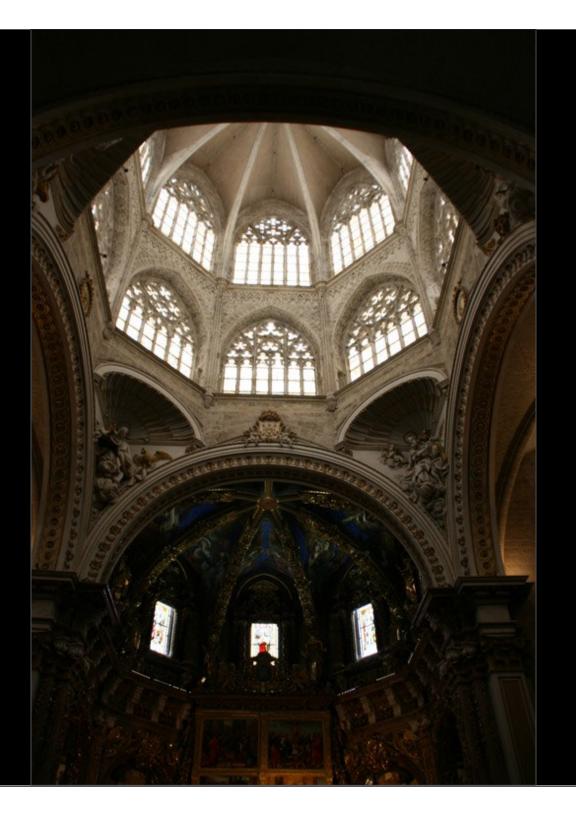




you're not responsible for

HDR imaging on your final







Cathedral, Valencia

tone mapping by exposure and gamma



tone mapping by histogram equalization



Tone mapping techniques

(slides from Fredo Durand)

- → image has 10,000:1 dynamic range, projector has ~200:1
- ♦ how can we compress the image's dynamic range?



Global tone mapping operators

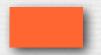
- * gamma compression applied independently on R,G,B output = input^{γ} (γ = 0.5 here)
- → colors become washed out

input



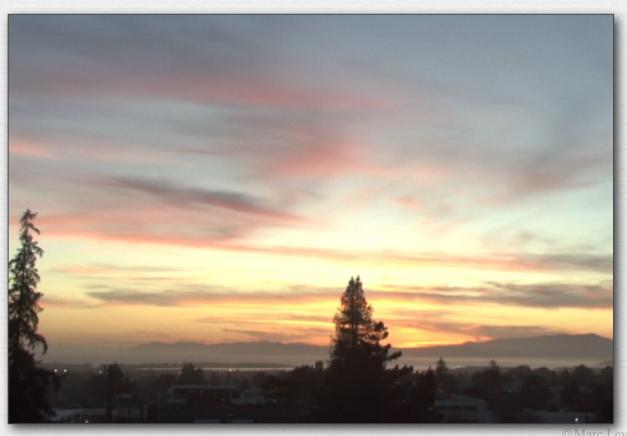
output

 $(1.0, 0.4, 0.2)^{0.5} = (1.0, 0.63, 0.44)$





(try it yourself in Photoshop)

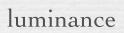


Global tone mapping operators

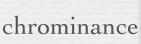
- → gamma compression on intensity only
- → saturated but light colors become garish



HSL double cone









(e.g. R/lum, G/lum, B/lum)



0.00	-2.00	0.00
-2.00	9.00	-2.00
0.00	-2.00	0.00

Local tone mapping operators

- → reduce contrast of low frequencies, while preserving high frequencies [Oppenheim 1968, Chiu et al. 1993]
- produces halos!

low frequency



(e.g. Gaussian blur)

high frequency



(e.g. original - Gaussian)

chrominance





Local tone mapping operators

♦ bilateral filtering to compute large scale image without blurring across edges, remainder is detail image (no halos!); reduce contrast of large scale, while preserving details [Durand and Dorsey SIGGRAPH 2002]

large scale



detail

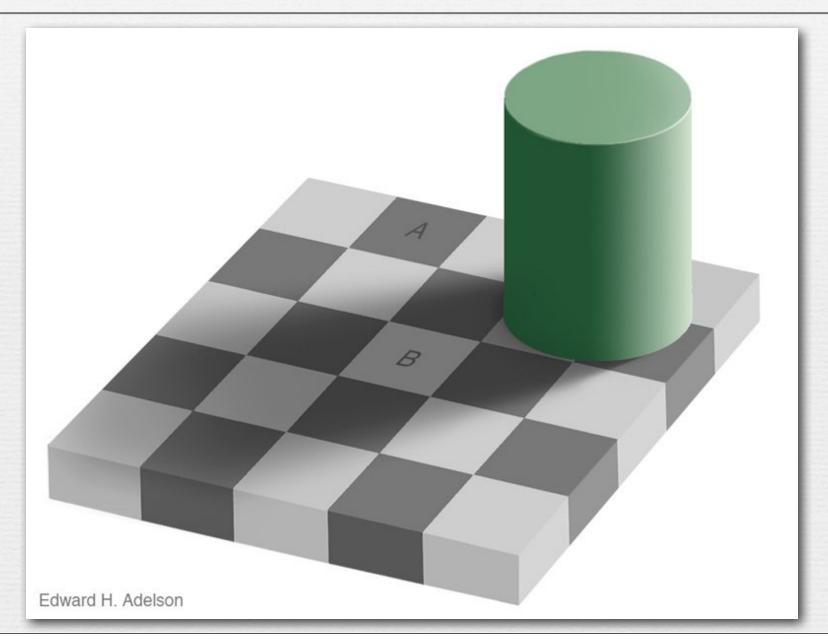


chrominance

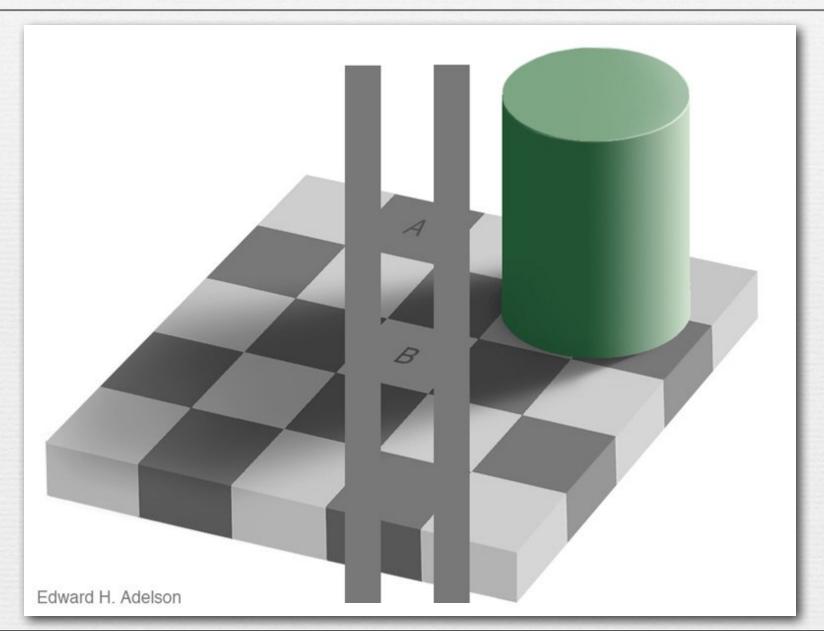




The importance of local contrast



The importance of local contrast



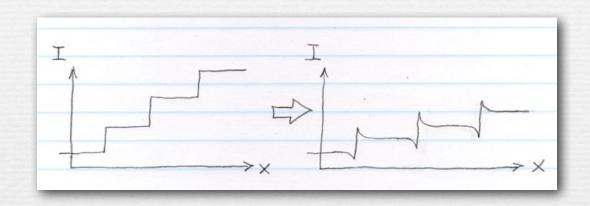
Tone mapping using bilateral filters

[Durand and Dorsey SIGGRAPH 2002]



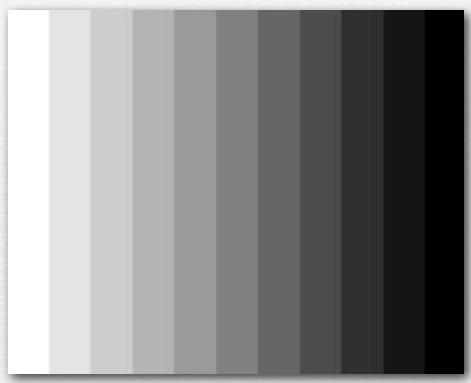


Why might tone mapping look cartoony? (contents of whiteboard)

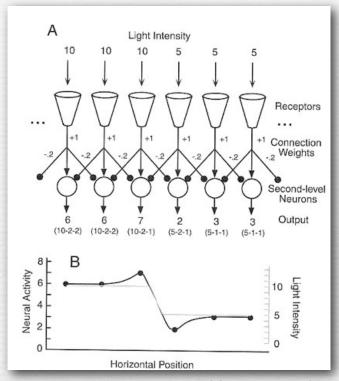


- ◆ a step wedge (at left) is converted by a tone mapping operator that enhances local contrast to the plot at right
 - the human eye does this internally due to lateral inhibition, but that doesn't necessarily mean we want to present an image like this to the human eye!

Mach bands and lateral inhibition

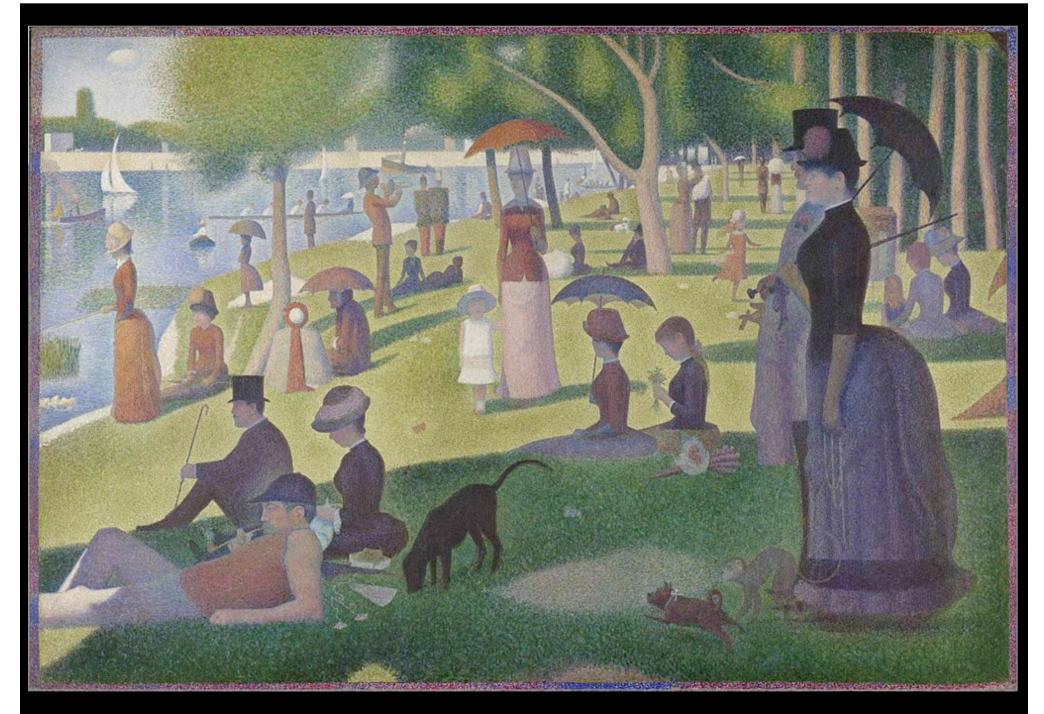


the Mach band illusion: each wedge should appear brighter on its right side



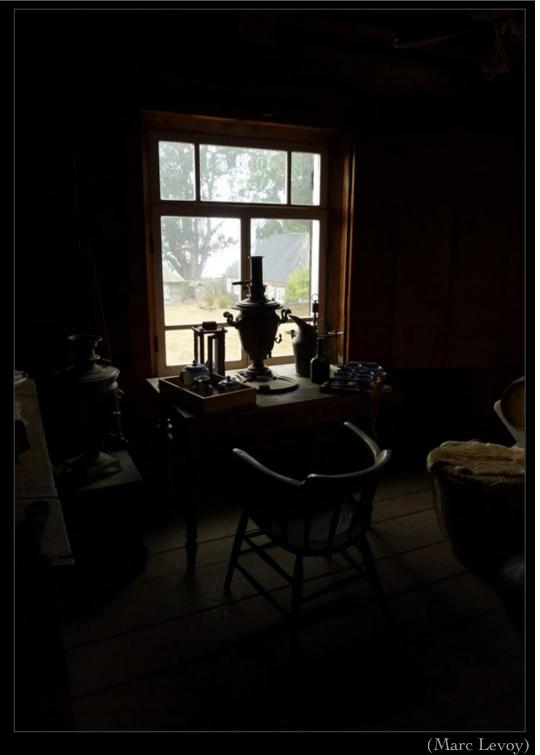
(Goldstein or Wolfe)

♦ lateral inhibition among receptive fields in the retina is equivalent to image convolution with a sharpening kernel



La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat, 1884

(Panasonic ZS3, 1/30s, ISO 125)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/30s, ISO 250)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/25s, ISO 400)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/13s, ISO 400)

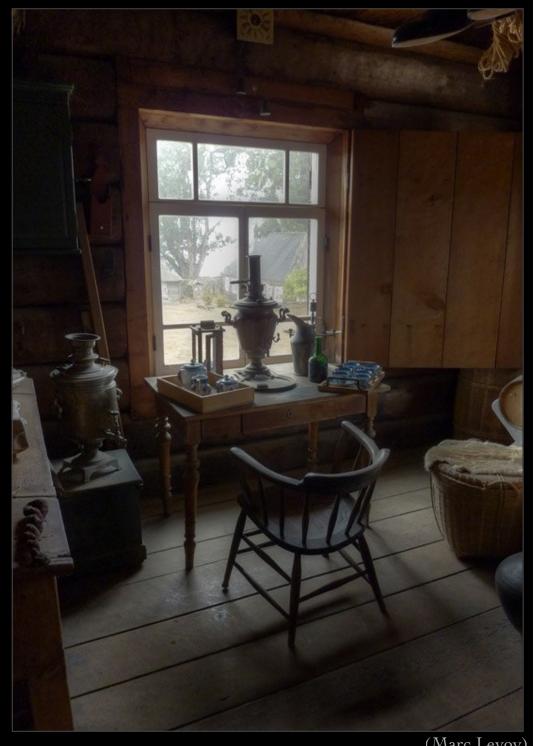


(Marc Levoy)

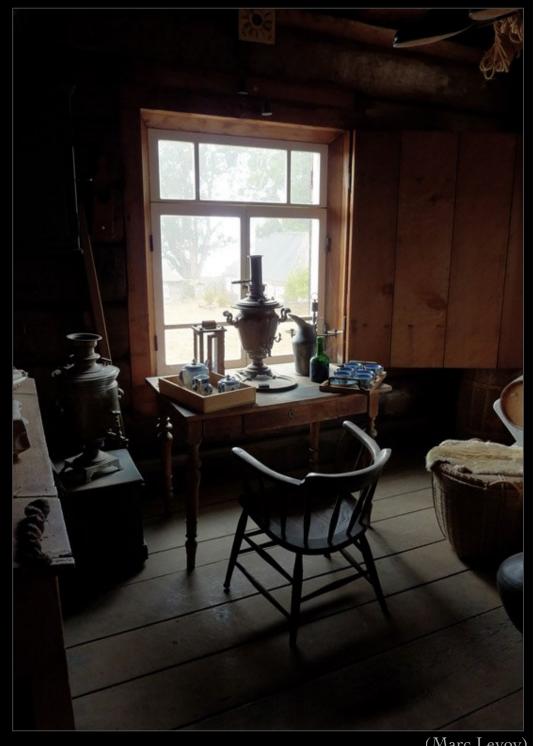
(Panasonic ZS3, 1/8s, ISO 400)



(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "detail enhancer" algorithm)



(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "tone compressor" algorithm)



(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "exposure fusion" algorithm)



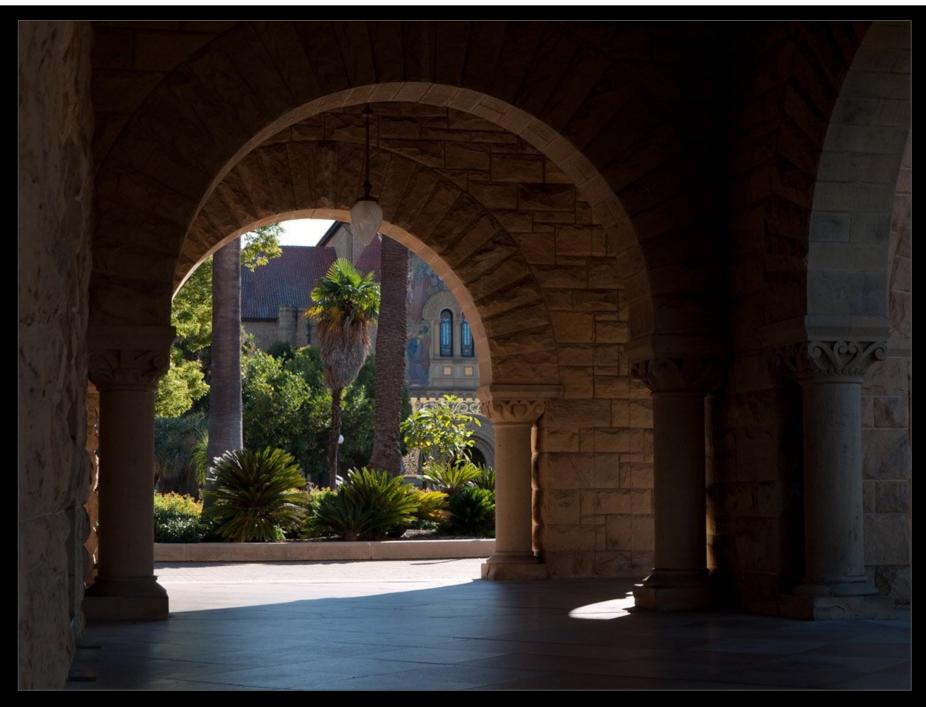
based on [Mertens 2007]

- directly blends original images, without first computing an HDR image
- downweights noisy and saturated pixels
- multi-band blending to avoid seams
- not physically based, but simple and fast

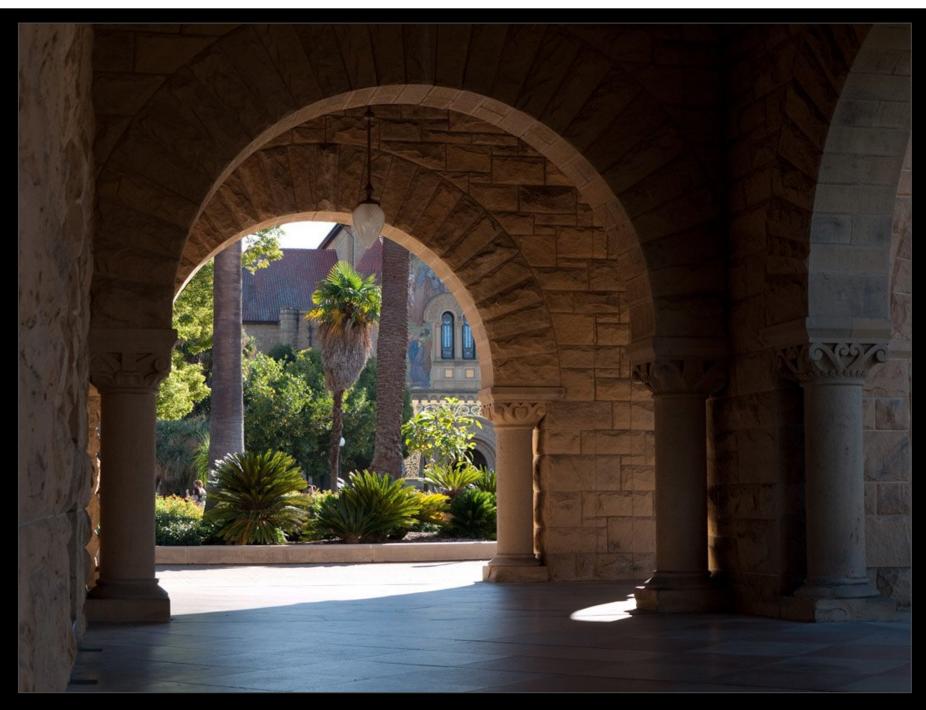
Commissary, Fort Ross, CA, 2010

(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "exposure fusion" algorithm)

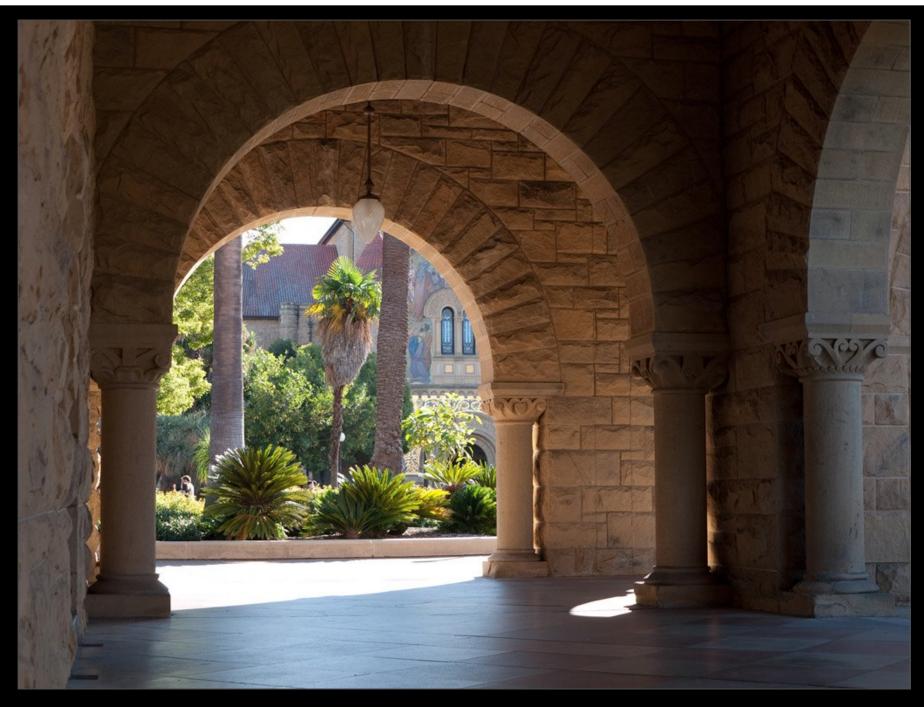




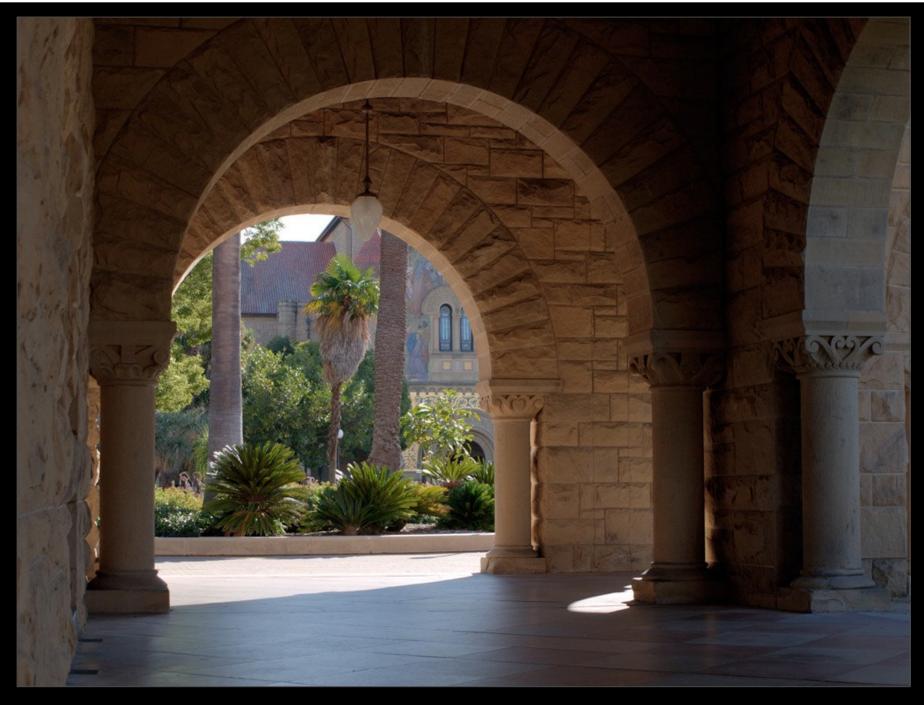
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/160s, f/6.3, ISO 100)



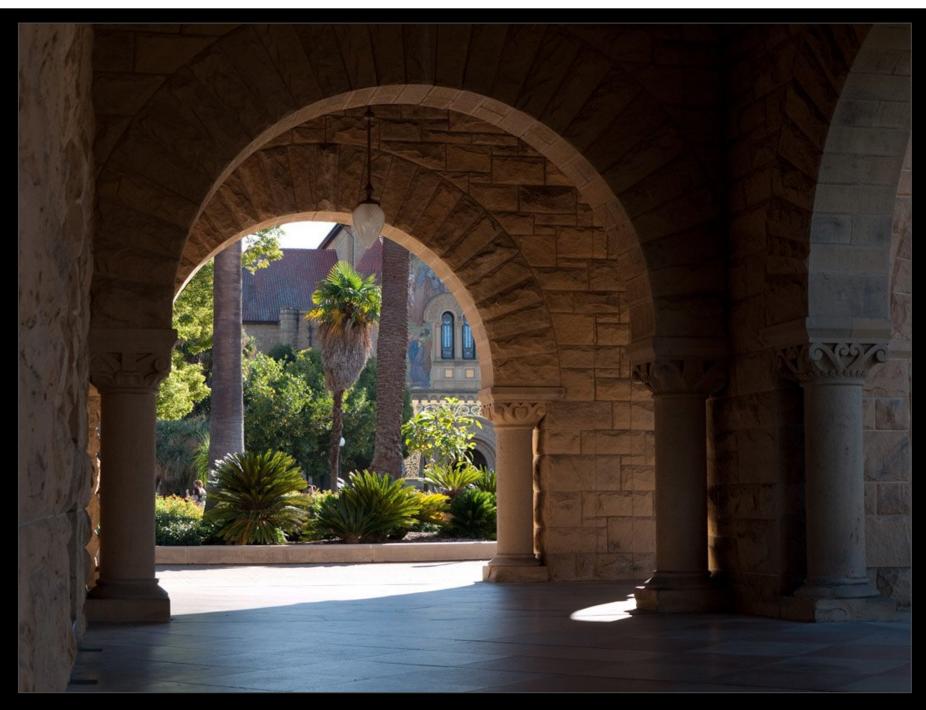
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/125s, f/5.6, ISO 100)



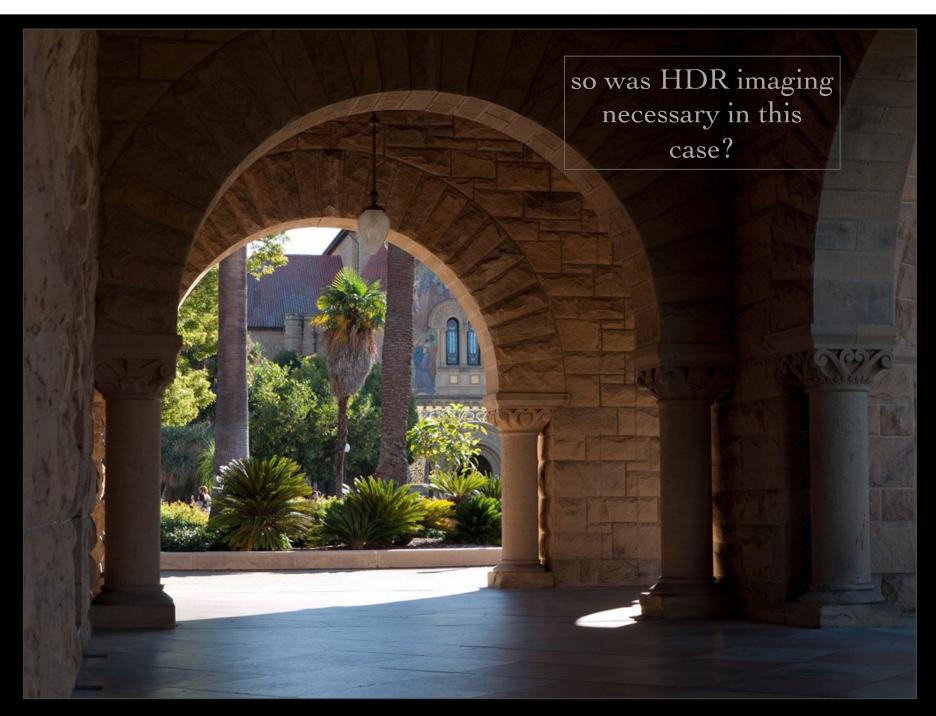
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/100s, f/5.4, ISO 100)



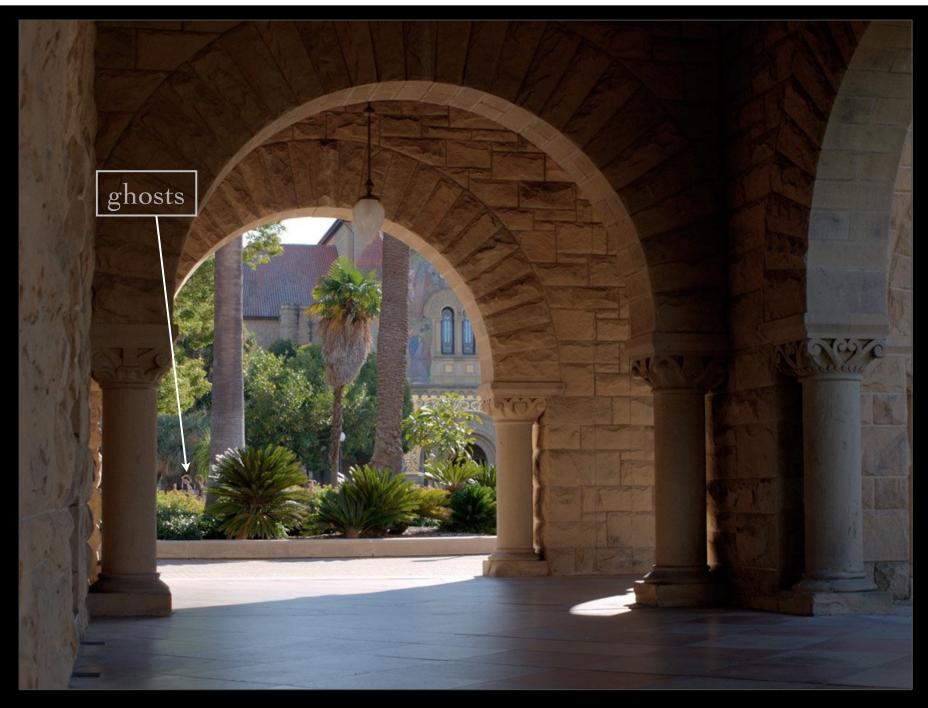
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (Photomatix 3.3.2, "tone compressor" algorithm)



Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/125s, f/5.6, ISO 100)



Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/125s, f/5.6, ISO 100)



Stanford Arcade, 2009 (Photomatix 3.3.2, "tone compressor" algorithm)

The HDR "look"



(Trey Ratcliff, http://www.stuckincustoms.com)

The HDR "look"



(Trey Ratcliff, http://www.stuckincustoms.com)

The HDR "look"

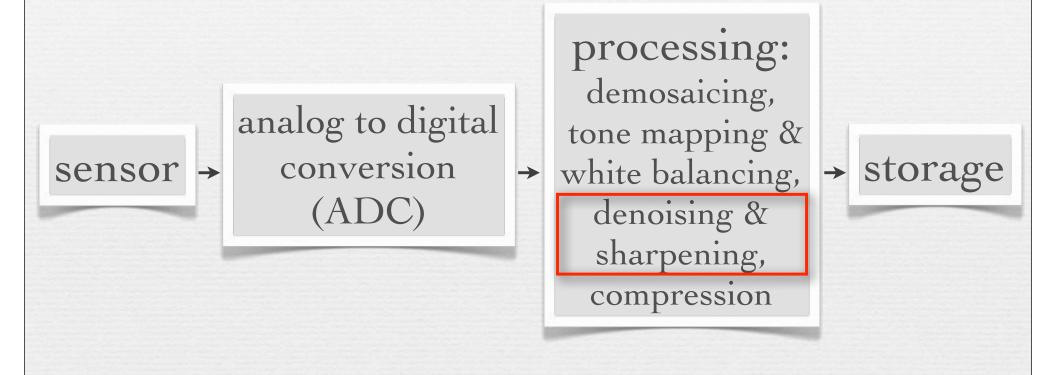


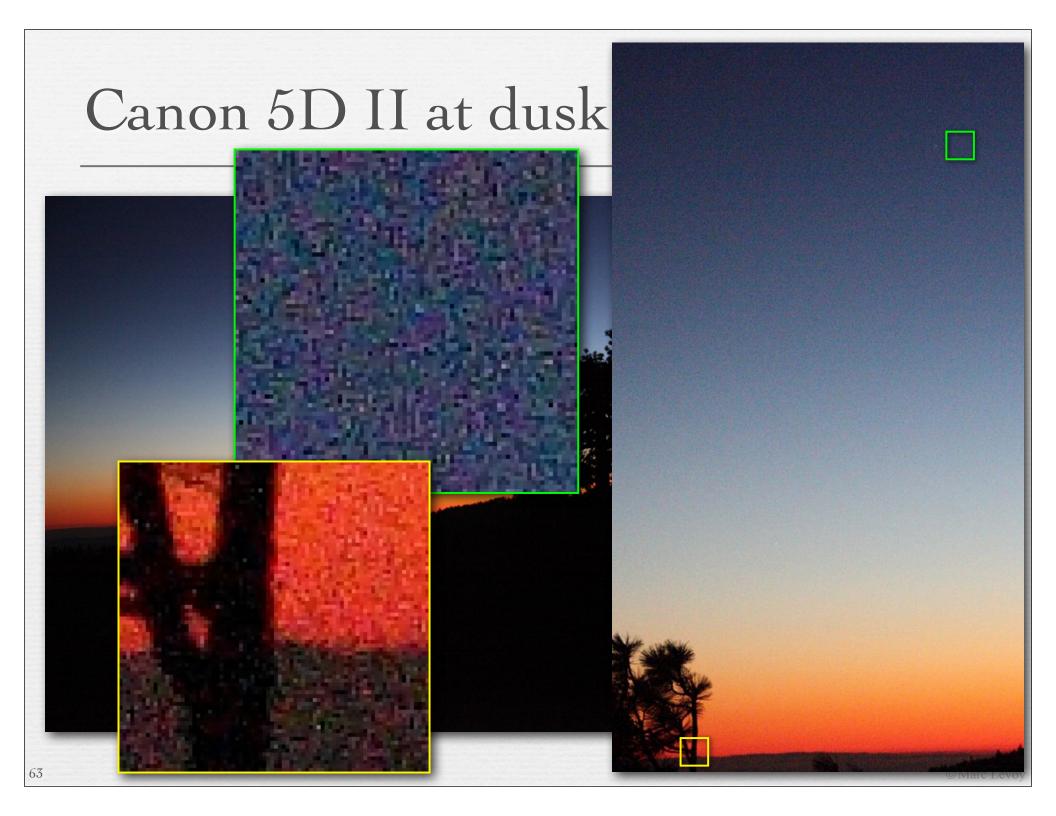
Recap

- ♦ high dynamic range (HDR) imaging is useful, and a new aesthetic, but is not necessary in most photographic situations
 - SLRs have more useful dynamic range (~12 bits) than pointand-shoot cameras or cell phones, i.e. w/o shadows being noisy
- ♦ low dynamic range (LDR) tone mapping methods apply to HDR, but reducing 12 bits to 8 bits using only global methods is hard
 - the reduction is needed for JPEG, display, and printing
- ◆ successful methods reduce large-scale luminance changes (across the image) while preserving *local contrast* (across edges)
 - use bilateral filtering to isolate large-scale luminance changes
- ♦ these methods mimic *lateral inhibition* in the human visual system
 - but this may not justify applying them to an image before sensing



Camera pixel pipeline





Denoising







RAW (ISO 6400)

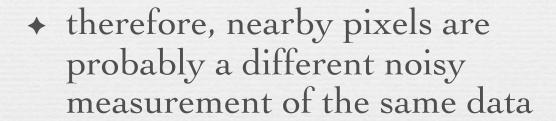
Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3

Canon denoising

- → goal is to remove sensor noise
 - blurring works, but also destroys edges
 - I don't know what Canon does, but here's something that works...

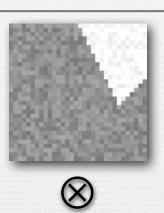
Bilateral filtering [Tomasi ICCV 1998]

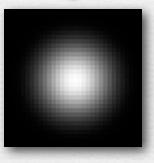
assume the image is <u>piecewise</u>
 <u>constant</u> with noise added



→ blurring doesn't work

• we should do a weighted blur where the weight is the probability a pixel is from the same piece of the scene





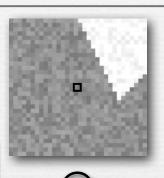


Bilateral filtering

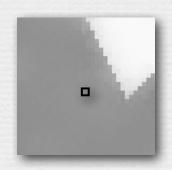
★ if the pixels are similar in intensity, the probability they are from the same piece of the scene is high

must change for every input pixel

- so perform a convolution where the weight assigned to nearby pixels falls off
 - with increasing (x,y) distance from the pixel being blurred
 - with increasing intensity difference from the pixel being blurred
- → i.e. blur in ∂omain and range dimensions!







Example of bilateral filtering

Women's gymnastics

(Canon 7D, 1/1000 sec, ISO 3200, f/1.8, 85mm)





original



denoised in Noise Ninja

Denoising



RAW (ISO 6400)

bilateral filtering removes sensor

noise without blurring edges

can easily be extended to RGB



Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising



bilateral filtering

Denoising



Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising



- → can be applied more (or less) strongly to chrominance than luminance
- can be combined with demosaicing
- ◆ active area of research...

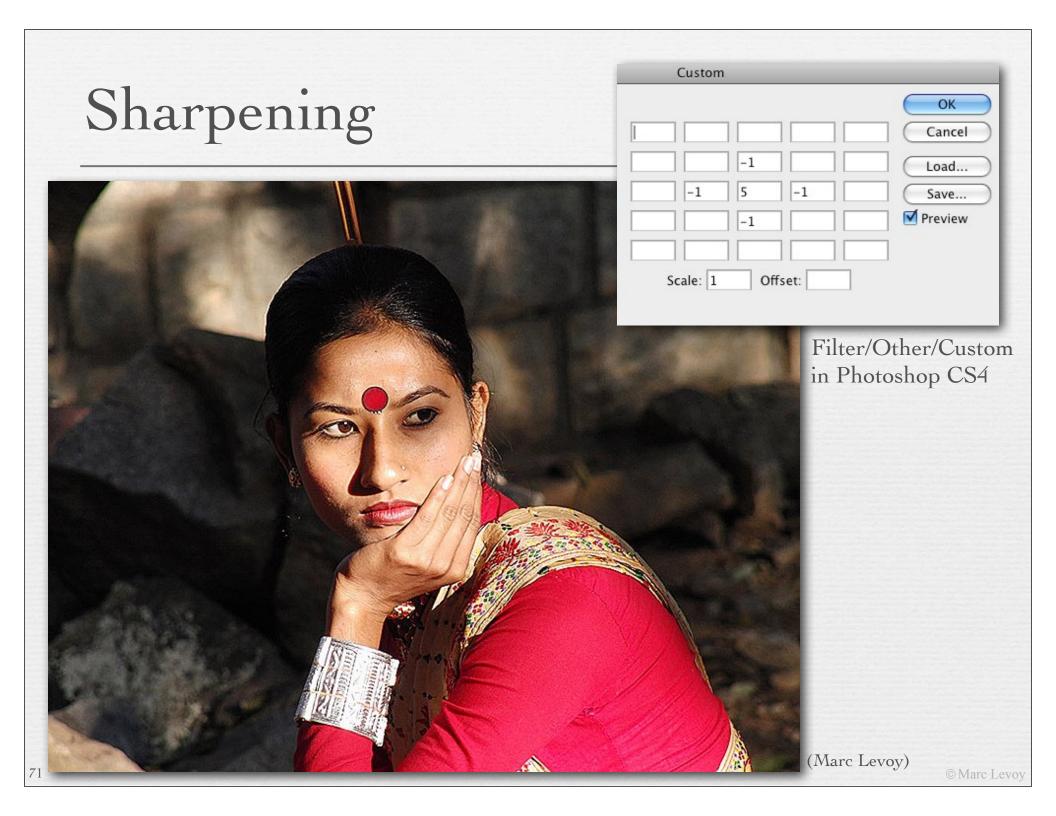


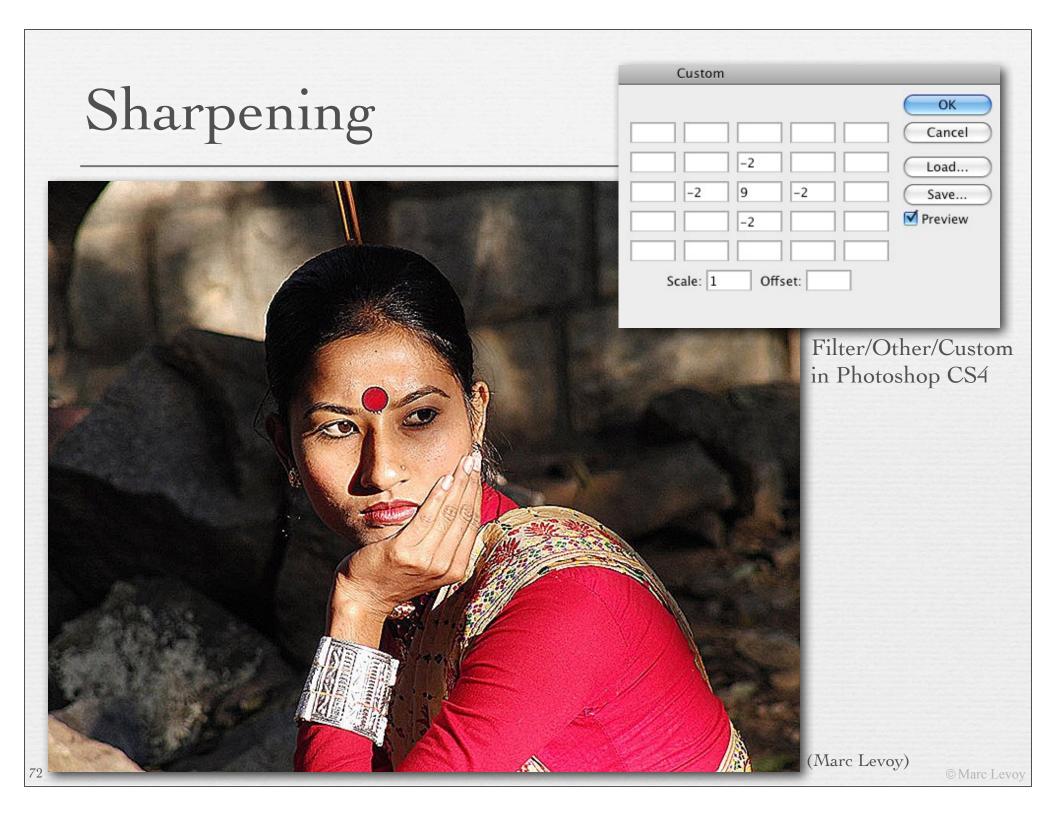
bilateral filtering

Sharpening



original



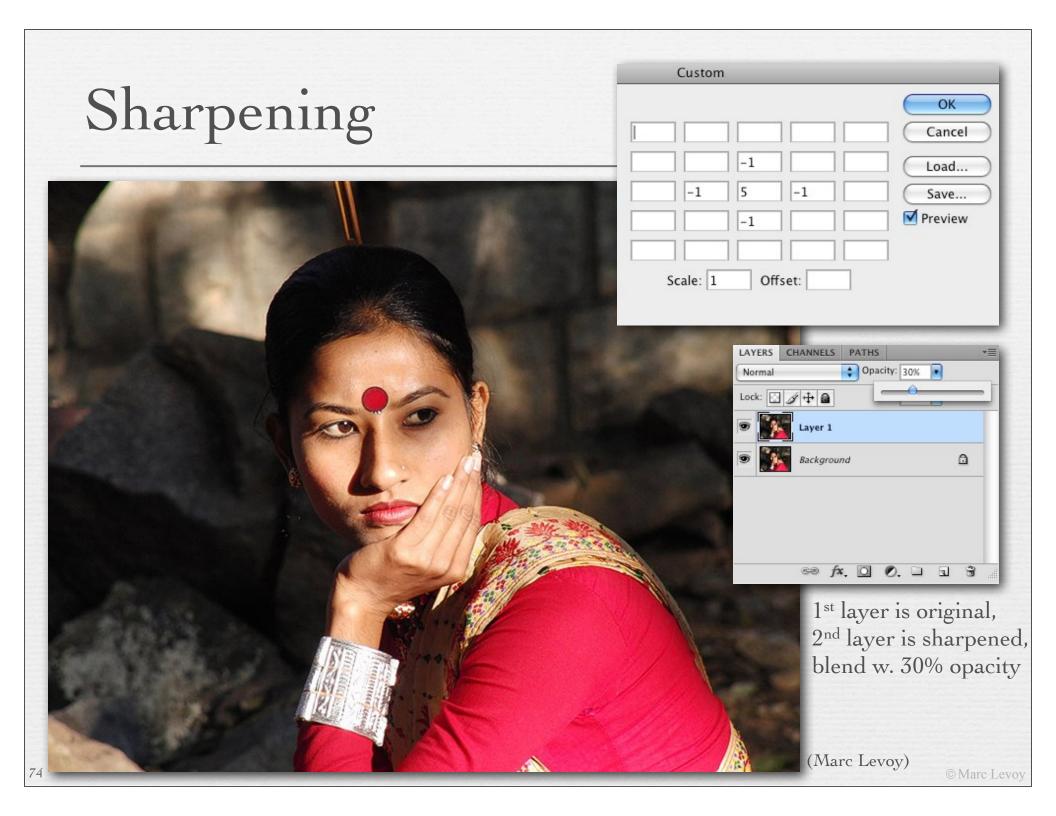


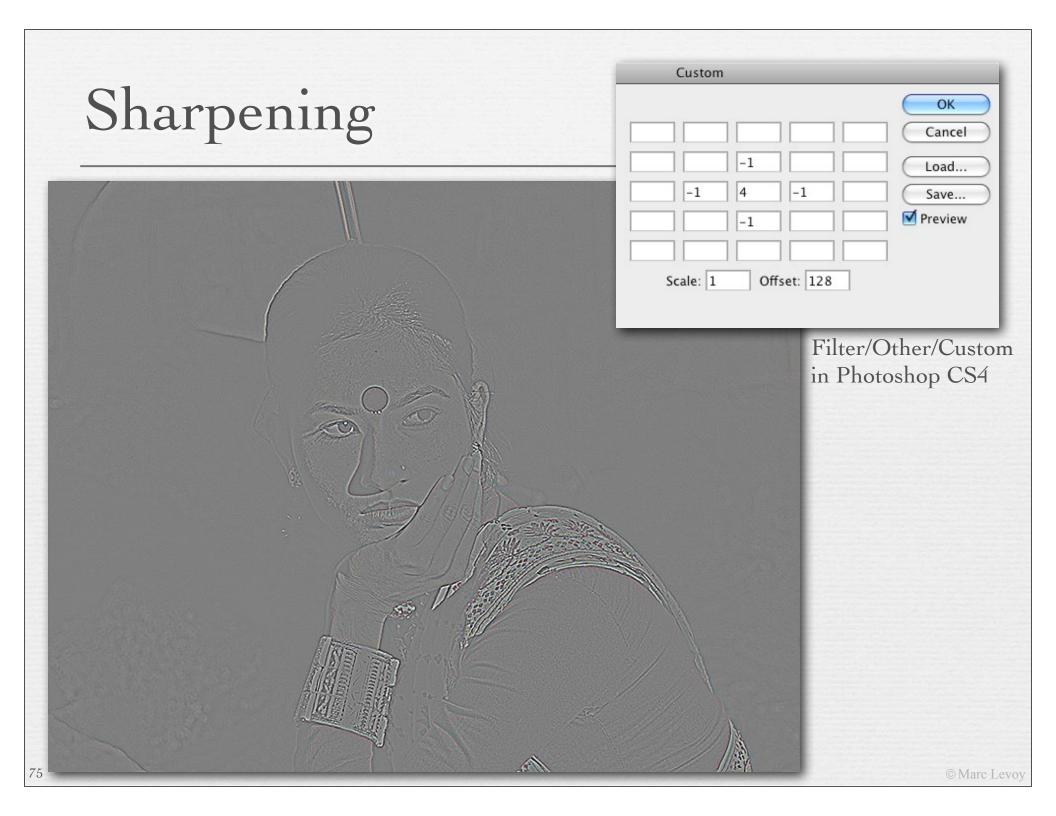
Sharpening



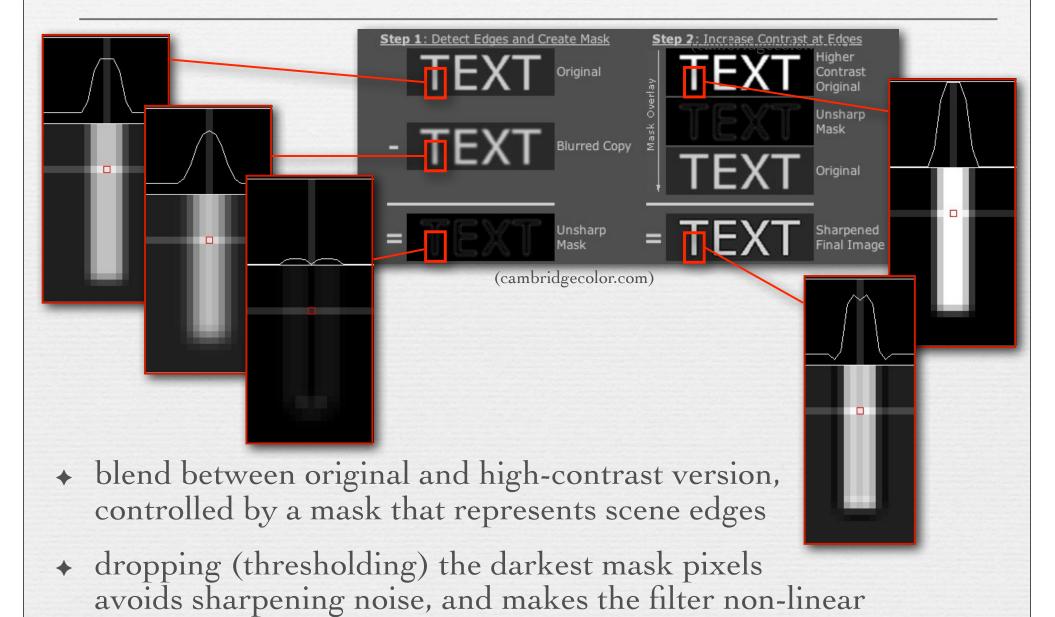
original

(Marc Levoy)





Unsharp masking







Filter/Other/Custom in Photoshop CS4

OK

Cancel

Load...

Save...

Preview

Custom





© Marc Levoy

Unsharp Mask

OK

Cancel

Sharpening



original

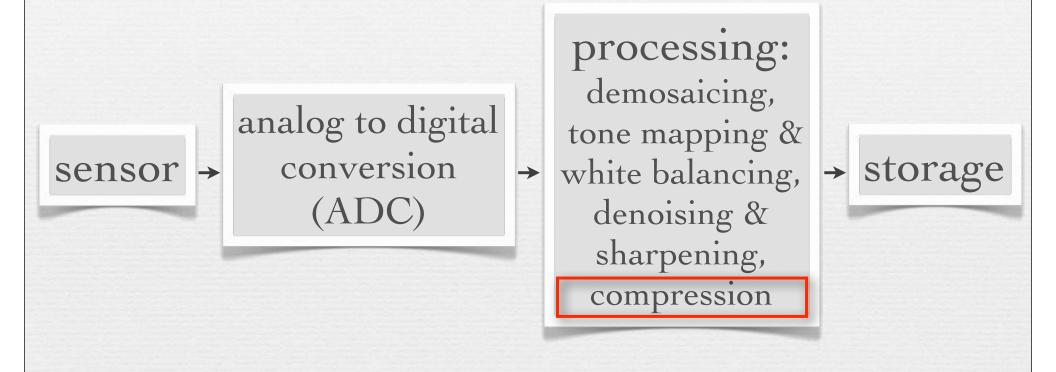
79

Recap

- ♦ bilateral filtering reduces noise while preserving edges
 - replaces each pixel with a weighted sum of its neighbors, where the weight drops with increasing distance from the pixel in X and Y and with increasing intensity difference
- unsharp masking is preferred to sharpening by convolution
 - replaces each pixel with a weighted sum of the original and a contrast-enhanced version, using the latter along edges, where this edge mask is derived from thresholding of original blurred version
- ♦ both are non-linear filters
 - i.e. they are not convolutions by a spatially invariant filter kernel



Camera pixel pipeline

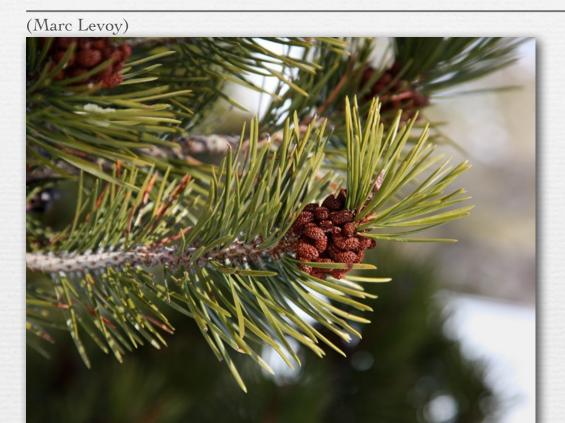


JPEG files

- → Joint Photographic Experts Group
 - organized 1986, standard adopted 1994
- → defines how an image is to be compressed (codec) into a stream of bytes and the file format for storing that stream
 - file format is JFIF, but people use .JPG or .JPEG extensions
- → good for compressing images of natural scenes
 - not so good for compressing drawings or graphics
- \bullet lossy, so loses quality each time you open \to edit \to save
 - especially if you crop or shift pixels (hence block boundaries)
 - for lossless compression, use PNG or TIFF

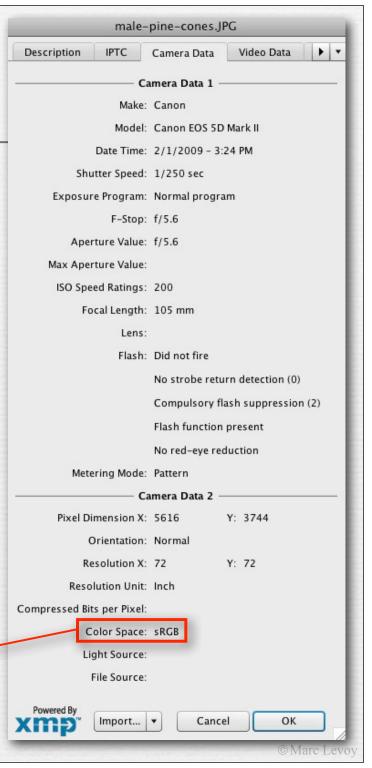
- ◆ Exchangeable Image File Format
 - created by Japan Electronic Industries Development Assoc.
- used by nearly every digital camera manufactured today
 - actually a file format
 - JPEG or TIFF file + metadata about the camera and shot
 - · .JPG or .JPEG extension is used, not .EXIF

File/File Info in Photoshop CS4



shot with Canon 5D Mark II

Color Space: sRGB



Focal Length

: 105.0 mm



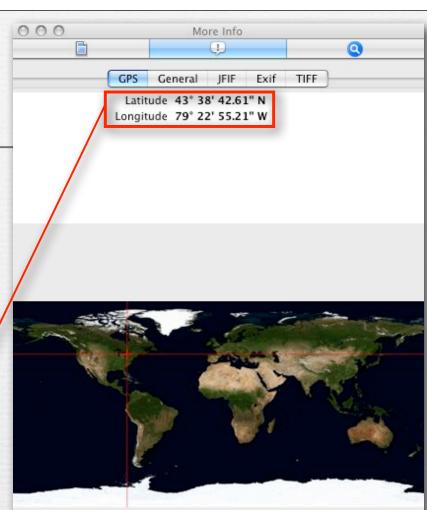
shot with Canon 5D Mark II

Focus Distance Upper Focus Distance Lower

exiftool



Locate





shot with iPhone 3G

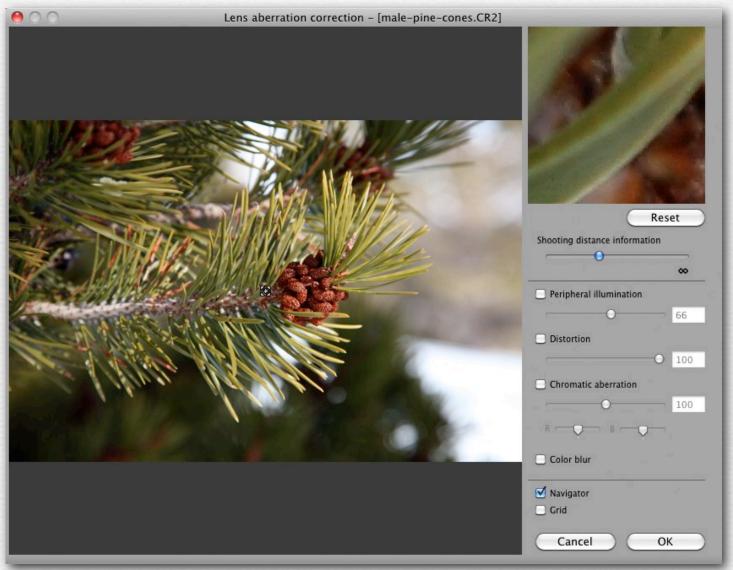
Latitude 43° 38' 42.61" N Longitude 79° 22' 55.21" W

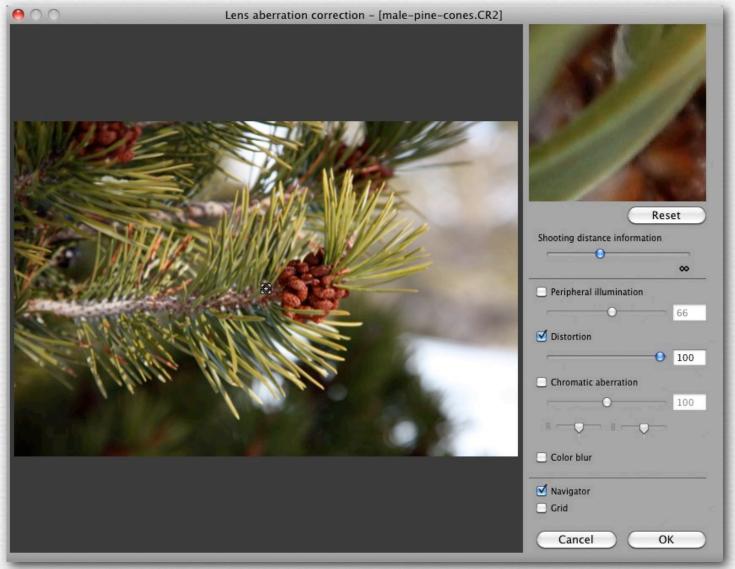
RAW files

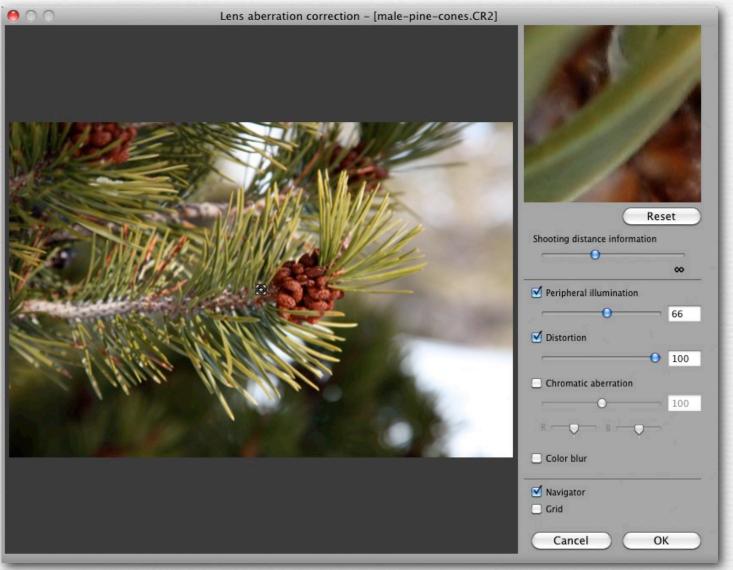
- minimally processed images, not even demosaiced
- uncompressed or losslessly compressed
- → includes metadata, possibly encrypted
- ◆ file format varies by manufacturer
- → example extensions: .CR2, .NEF, .RW2

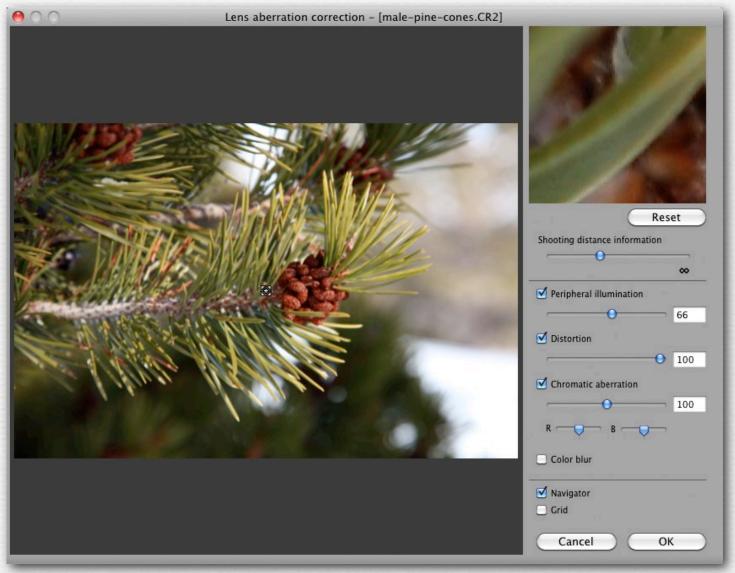


- processed and converted to a JPEG file using
 - proprietary software (e.g. Canon Digital Photo Professional)
 - Photoshop or Lightroom (if they support your camera)
 - freeware programs like dcraw
 - but their processing algorithms are all different!



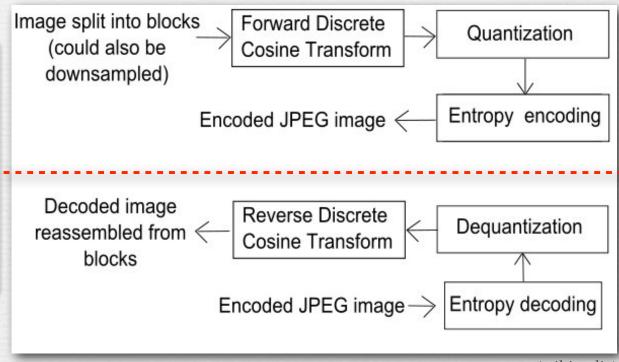






compression (in camera)

- input is Y'CbCr
- Cb and Cr typically downsampled by 2× in X and Y
- each component is compressed separately



decompression (for display)

(wikipedia)

zero-mean image

 52
 55
 61
 66
 70
 61
 64
 73

 63
 59
 55
 90
 109
 85
 69
 72

 62
 59
 68
 113
 144
 104
 66
 73

 63
 58
 71
 122
 154
 106
 70
 69

 67
 61
 68
 104
 126
 88
 68
 70

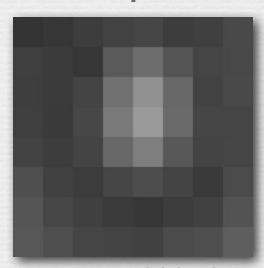
 79
 65
 60
 70
 77
 68
 58
 75

 85
 71
 64
 59
 55
 61
 65
 83

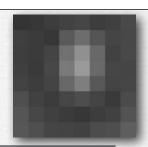
 87
 79
 69
 68
 65
 76
 78
 94

8-bit image

- ♦ step #1: split into 8×8 pixel blocks
- ♦ step #2: quantize to 8 bits / pixel
- ♦ step #3: convert to zero-mean



8×8 pixel block



zero-mean image

$$\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \ v$$

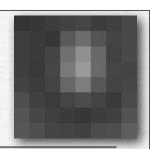
discrete cosine transform (DCT)

- any 8×8 pixel zero-mean image can be represented by a weighted sum of the 64 different 8×8 pixel basis functions shown at right loss
- → <u>step #4</u>: compute the weighting for each basis function using:

$$G_{u,v} = \alpha(u)\alpha(v)\sum_{x=0}^{7}\sum_{y=0}^{7}g_{x,y}\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{8}\left(x+\frac{1}{2}\right)u\right]\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{8}\left(y+\frac{1}{2}\right)v\right]$$







```
    16
    11
    10
    16
    24
    40
    51
    61

    12
    12
    14
    19
    26
    58
    60
    55

    14
    13
    16
    24
    40
    57
    69
    56

    14
    17
    22
    29
    51
    87
    80
    62

    18
    22
    37
    56
    68
    109
    103
    77

    24
    35
    55
    64
    81
    104
    113
    92

    49
    64
    78
    87
    103
    121
    120
    101

    72
    92
    95
    98
    112
    100
    103
    99
```

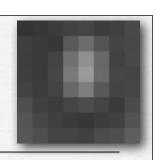
bin size for each coefficient

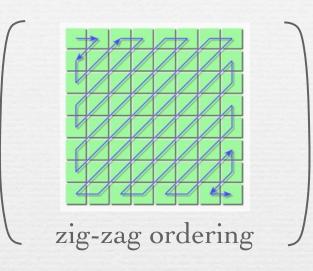
```
\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \ v
```

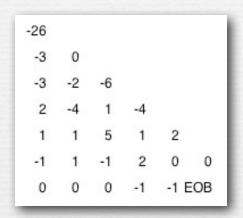
discrete cosine transform (DCT)

- the human visual system is more sensitive to low frequencies than high frequencies, so quantize the latter coarsely
- ♦ step #5: quantize the DCT coefficients using bins whose size increases with frequency

quantized DCT coefficients

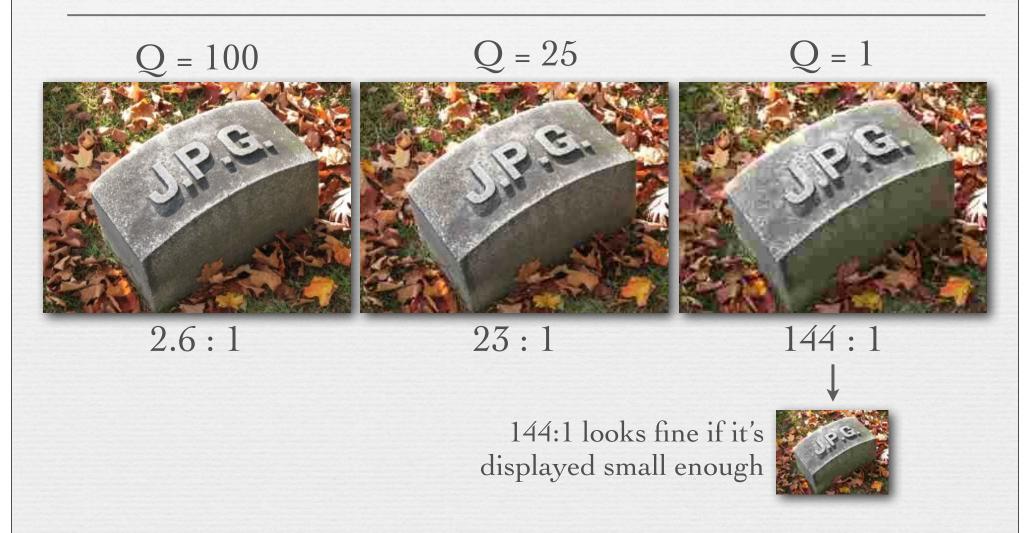






- ◆ step #6: arrange the non-zero coefficients in zig-zag order lossless
- step #7: use run-length encoding to remove repeated elements
- → <u>step #8</u>: apply Huffman coding to reduce number of bits needed for each coefficient

quantized DCT coefficients



 not easily comparable to Photoshop quality numbers, since Adobe uses its own (proprietary) encoder

Recap

- ♦ RAW files is the direct output of the camera sensor
 - not demosaiced, 16 bits per pixel, losslessly compressed
 - contains metadata, usually proprietary
- → JPEG files are a standard format for storing images
 - typically 8 bits per pixel, lossy compression
 - contains metadata in EXIF format
- → JPEG's compression format is designed to discard details
 - images are partitioned into blocks of 8 × 8 pixels
 - each block is represented by a weighted sum of sinusoids (DCT)
 - the coefficients of high frequency sinusoids are heavily quantized, which reduces # of bits, hence file size, but also loses images quality
 - these coefficients are losslessly compressed using Huffman coding



Slide credits

→ Fredo Durand

- ♦ Wandell, B., Foundations of Vision, Sinauer, 1995.
- → Tanser and Kleiner, Gardner's Art Through the Ages (10th ed.), Harcourt Brace, 1996.
- Rudman, T., Photographer's Master Printing Course, Focal Press, 1998.
- Adams, A., *The Print*, Little, Brown and Co., 1980.
- ← Goldstein, B.E., Sensation and Perception, Wadsworth, 1999.
- ♦ Wolfe, J.M., Sensation and Perception, Sinauer, 2006.