## Image Segmentation

## Jianping Fan <br> Dept of Computer Science UNC-Charlotte

Course Website:
http://webpages.uncc.edu/jfan/itcs5152.html

## Outlines

- Seeded Region Growing
- K-Means Clustering
- Graph Cut \& Normalized Cut


## Definitions

- Based on sets.
- Each image R is a set of regions $R_{i}$.
- Every pixel belongs to one region.
- One pixel can only
 region.

$$
R=\bigcup_{i=1}^{S} R_{i} \quad R_{i} \bigcap R_{j}=\varnothing
$$



## Basic Formulation

Let R represent the entire image region. Segmentation partitions R into n subregions, $R_{1}, R_{2}, \ldots, R_{n}$, such that:
a) $\bigcup_{i=1}^{n} R_{i}=R$
b) $\quad R_{i}$ is a connected region, $i=1,2, \ldots, n$.
c) $\quad R_{i} \cap R_{j}=\phi$ for all $i$ and $j, i \neq j$
d) $\quad P\left(R_{i}\right)=$ TRUE for $i=1,2, \ldots, n$.
e) $\quad P\left(R_{i} \cup R_{j}\right)=F A L S E$ for $i \neq j$.
a) Every pixel must be in a region
b) Points in a region must be connected.
c) Regions must be disjoint.
d) All pixels in a region satisfy specific properties.
e) Different regions have different properties.

## Region growing

- Groups pixels into larger regions.
- Starts with a seed region.
- Iterative process
- How to start?
- How to iterate?
- When to stop?
- Grows region by merging

Finish neighboring pixels.


## Similarity Criteria

- Homogeneity of regions is used as the main segmentation criterion in region growing.
- gray level
- color, texture

Choice of criteria affects segmentation results dramatically!

- shape
- model
- etc.


## Region Growing

- Inter-Pixel Similarity Calculation
(a) Pixel Neighborhood Similarity Calculation

| $(x-1, y-1)$ | $(x, y-1)$ | $(x+1, y-1)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $(x-1, y)$ | $(x, y)$ | $(x+1, y)$ |
| $(x-1, y+1)$ | $(x, y+1)$ | $(x+1, y+1)$ |

## Region Growing

- Inter-Pixel Similarity Calculation
(1) Inter-Pixel Similarity

$$
D[(x, y),(x-1, y-1)]=|I(x, y)-I(x-1, y-1)|
$$

(2) Binary Classification

$$
S(x, y)=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
1, \text { similar, } D[(x, y),(x-1, y-1)]<T \\
0, \text { dissimilar }, D[(x, y),(x-1, y-1)] \geq T
\end{array}\right.
$$

## Region Growing

- Threshold Determination for Decision Making Relationships among neighboring pixels can defined as: similar versus dissimilar



## Region Growing

- Ihreshold Determination for Decision Making

Entropy for similar and dissimilar pixels:

$$
\begin{gathered}
H(\bar{T})=\max _{T-0,1 \ldots \ldots M}\left\{H_{\mathrm{nsc}}(T)+H_{\mathrm{sc}}(T)\right\} . \\
P_{\mathrm{nsc}}(i)=\frac{f_{i}}{\sum_{h-0}^{T} f_{h}}, \quad 0 \leqslant i \leqslant T,
\end{gathered}
$$

## Region Growing

- 'Ihreshold Determination for Decision Making

$$
\begin{aligned}
H_{\mathrm{nsc}}(T+1)= & -\sum_{i=0}^{T+1} \frac{f_{i}}{P_{0}(T+1)} \log \frac{f_{t}}{P_{0}(T+1)} \\
= & -\frac{P_{0}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)} \sum_{i=0}^{T+1} \frac{f_{i}}{P_{0}(T)} \log \left\{\frac{f_{i}}{P_{0}(T)} \frac{P_{0}(T)}{P_{0}(T+1)}\right\} \\
= & \frac{P_{0}(T)}{P_{0}(T+1)} H_{\mathrm{as}}(T)-\frac{f_{T+1}}{P_{0}(T+1)} \log \frac{f_{T+1}}{P_{0}(T+1)} \\
& -\frac{P_{0}(T)}{P_{0}(T+1)} \log \frac{P_{0}(T)}{P_{0}(T+1)} \\
H_{\mathrm{sc}}(T+1)= & -\sum_{i=T+2}^{M} \frac{f_{i}}{P_{1}(T+1)} \log \frac{f_{i}}{P_{1}(T+1)} \\
= & -\frac{P_{1}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)} \sum_{t=T+2}^{M} \frac{f_{i}}{P_{1}(T)} \log \left\{\frac{f_{i}}{P_{1}(T)} \frac{P_{1}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)}\right\} \\
= & \frac{P_{1}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)} H_{s o}(T)+\frac{f_{T+1}}{P_{1}(T+1)} \log \frac{f_{T+1}}{P_{1}(T+1)} \\
& -\frac{P_{1}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)} \log \frac{P_{1}(T)}{P_{1}(T+1)} .
\end{aligned}
$$

## Gray-Level Criteria

- Comparing to Original Seed Pixel
- Very sensitive to choice of seed point.
- Comparing to Neighbor in Region
- Allows gradual changes in the region.
- Can cause significant drift.
- Comparing to Region Statistics
- Acts as a drift dampener.
- Other possibilities!

- Seed Fixel
$\uparrow$ Direction of Growth
(a) Start of Growing a Region

- Gown Fivels
* Fixels Being

Considered
(b) Growing Process After a Few Iterations

## Region merging

- Algorithm
- Divide image into an initial set of regions.
- One region per pixel.
- Define a similarity criteria for merging regions.
- Merge similar regions.
- Repeat previous step until no more merge operations are possible.


## Region Growing

## - Region Growing Results



## Region Growing



## Region Growing

## - Region Growing Results



## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

Image Segmentation


## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

## - Image Segmentation



## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

## - Image Segmentation



## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

- Image Segmentation



## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

## Image Segmentation



## Integrating Multi-modal Features for Region Growing

## Observations

- Only segmentation from visual information cannot support automatic image understanding \& interpretation!
- Image segmentation results may not make sense to human beings!


## Seeded Image Segmentation

- Color image segmentation polices:
- Threshold
- Boundary-based
- Region-based
- Hybrid techniques



## Hybrid techniques

- Seeding region growing (SRG)
- Different merging order possibility



## Automatic seed selection algorithm

- Condition 1:
- A seed pixel candidate must have the similarity higher than a threshold values.
- Condition 2:
- A seed pixel candidate must have the maximum relative Euclidean distance to its eight neighbors less than a threshold value.


## Automatic seed selection algorithm

 Calculate the maximum ${ }_{8}$ distance to its neighbors as : $d_{\text {max }}=\max _{i=1} d_{i}$$$
d_{i}=\frac{\sqrt{\left(Y-Y_{i}\right)^{2}+\left(C_{b}-C_{b_{i}}\right)^{2}+\left(C_{r}-C_{r_{i}}\right)^{2}}}{\sqrt{Y^{2}+C_{b}^{2}+C_{r}^{2}}}, i=1 \ldots 8
$$

- $Y C_{b} C_{r}$ of the pixel, $Y_{i} C_{b_{i}} C_{r_{i}}$ of its neighbors
- Not on the boundary
- 0.05

Condition 2:
A seed pixel candidate must have the maximum relative Euclidean distance to its eight neighbors less than a threshold value. 28

## Automatic seed selection algorithm

- Connected seeds are considered as one seed.


Original color image

the detected seeds are shown in red color

## Region growing

- The pixels that are unclassified and neighbors of at least one region, calculate the distance:

$$
d_{i}=\frac{\sqrt{\left(Y_{i}-\bar{Y}\right)^{2}+\left(C_{b_{i}}-\bar{C}_{b}\right)^{2}+\left(C_{r_{i}}-\bar{C}_{r}\right)^{2}}}{\sqrt{Y_{i}^{2}+C_{b_{i}}{ }^{2}+C_{r_{i}}{ }^{2}}}
$$

## Region growing



1. red pixels are the seeds and the green pixels are the pixels in the sorted list $\mathbf{T}$ in a decreasing order of distances.
2. the white pixel is the pixel with the minimum distance to the seed regions
3. check its 4-neighbors

## Region growing



1. If all labeled neighbors of $p$ have a same label, set $p$ to this label.
2. If the labeled neighbors of $p$ have different labels, calculate the distances between $p$ and all neighboring regions and classify $p$ to the nearest region.
3. Then update the mean of this region, and add 4 neighbors of $p$, which are neither classified yet nor in $T$, to $T$ in a decreasing order of distances.
4. Until the $T$ is empty.

## Region merging

- Consider the color different and size of regions:
- Color different between two adjacent region Ri and Rj is defined as:
- Size

$$
d(R i, R j)=\frac{\sqrt{\left(\bar{Y}_{i}-\bar{Y}_{j}\right)^{2}+\left(\bar{C}_{b_{i}}-\bar{C}_{b_{j}}\right)^{2}+\left(\bar{C}_{r_{i}}-\bar{C}_{r_{j}}\right)^{2}}}{\min \left(\sqrt{\bar{Y}_{i}^{2}+\bar{C}_{b_{i}}{ }^{2}+\bar{C}_{r_{i}}}, \sqrt{\bar{Y}_{j}^{2}+\bar{C}_{b_{j}}{ }^{2}+\bar{C}_{r_{i}}{ }^{2}}\right)}
$$

- select $\frac{1}{150}$ of the total number of pixels in an image as the threshold.


## Region merging

- We first examine the two regions having the smallest color different among others.
- If $d\left(R i, R_{j}\right)<$ threshold, merge the two regions and re-compute the mean of the new region.
- We repeat the process until no region has the distance less than the threshold.
- Threshold=0.1


## Region merging

- If the size with number of pixels in a region is smaller than a threshold, the region is merged into its neighboring region with the smallest color difference.
- This procedure is repeated until no region has size less than the threshold.


## Experimental results



JSEG algorithm.


## Experimental results



JSEG algorithm.


JSEG algorithm.

## K-Means Clustering

1. Partition the data points into K clusters randomly. Find the centroids of each cluster.
2. For each data point:

- Calculate the distance from the data point to each cluster.
- Assign the data point to the closest cluster.

3. Re-compute the centroid of each cluster.
4. Repeat steps $\mathbf{2}$ and $\mathbf{3}$ until there is no further change in the assignment of data points (or in the centroids).

## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering



## K-Means Clustering

Example


## K-Means Clustering

- RGB vector


K-means clustering minimizes

$$
\sum_{i \in \text { clusters }}\left\{\sum_{j \text { elelements of fith chuster }}\left\|x_{j}-\mu_{i}\right\|^{2}\right\}
$$

## Clustering

- Example
D. Comaniciu and $\mathbf{P}$. Meer, Robust Analysis of Feature Spaces: Color Image Segmentation, 1997.

Bahadir K. Gunturk
EE 7730 - Image Analysis I

## K-Means Clustering

- Example


Original

$K=5$

$K=11$



K-means, color and position is used in segmentation, four clusters (out of 20) are shown here.

Each vector is ( $\mathbf{R}, \mathrm{G}, \mathrm{B}, \mathrm{x}, \mathrm{y}$ ).


## K-Means Clustering: Axis Scaling

- Features of different types may have different scales.
$\square$ For example, pixel coordinates on a $100 \times 100$ image vs. RGB color values in the range $[0,1]$.
- Problem: Features with larger scales dominate clustering.
- Solution: Scale the features.


## Spectral Clustering for Image Segmentation

## Graph-based Image Segmentation



Image (I)


Graph Affinities
(W)

## Graph-based Image Segmentation



## Graph-based Image Segmentation




Eigenvector
X(W)

$(D-W) X=\lambda D X$
$X_{A}(i)=\left\{\begin{array}{lll}1 & \text { if } & i \in A \\ 0 & \text { if } & i \notin A\end{array}\right.$

## Graph-based Image Segmentation



Image (I)





Eigenvector


$$
\begin{aligned}
& (D-W) X=\lambda D X \\
& X_{A}(i)=\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
1 & \text { if } & i \in A \\
0 & \text { if } & i \notin A
\end{array}\right.
\end{aligned}
$$

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## Discretization

Slide from Timothee Cour (http://www.seas.upenn.edu/~timothee)

## Graph-based Image Segmentation



$$
\mathbf{G}=\{\mathbf{V}, \mathrm{E}\}
$$



V: graph nodes
E: edges connection nodes

Pixels Pixel similarity

## Graph terminology

- Similarity matrix: $W=\left\lfloor w_{i, j}\right\rfloor$



## Affinity matrix



## Graph terminology

- Degree of node:

$$
d_{i}=\sum_{j} w_{i, j}
$$





## Graph terminology

- Volume of set:

$$
\operatorname{vol}(A)=\sum_{i \in A} d_{i}, A \subseteq V
$$





## Graph terminology

- Cuts in a graph:

$$
\operatorname{cut}(A, \bar{A})=\sum_{i \in A, j \in \bar{A}} w_{i, j}
$$





## Representation

Partition matrix $X$ :

$$
X=\left[X_{1}, \ldots, X_{K}\right]
$$



Pair-wise similarity matrix $W: W(i, j)=a f f(i, j)$
Degree matrix $D: \quad D(i, i)=\sum_{j} w_{i, j}$
Laplacian matrix $L: L=D-W$

## Pixel similarity functions

Intensity

$$
W(i, j)=e^{\frac{-\left\|I_{(i)}-I_{(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{I}^{2}}}
$$

Distance

$$
W(i, j)=e^{\frac{-\left\|X_{(i)}-X_{(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{X}^{2}}}
$$

Texture

$$
W(i, j)=e^{\frac{-\left\|c_{(i)}-c_{(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{c}^{2}}}
$$

## Pixel similarity functions



## Definitions

- Methods that use the spectrum of the affinity matrix to cluster are known as spectral clustering.
- Normalized cuts, Average cuts, Average association make use of the eigenvectors of the affinity matrix.
- Why these methods work?


## Spectral Clustering



[^0]
## Eigenvectors and blocks

- Block matrices have block eigenvectors:

$$
\lambda_{1}=2 \quad \lambda_{2}=2 \quad \lambda_{3}=0
$$

| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |



- Near-block matrices have near-block eigenvectors:

| 1 | 1 | .2 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | -.2 |
| .2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | -.2 | 1 | 1 |


| $\lambda_{1}=2.02$ |  | $\lambda_{2}=2.02$ | $\lambda_{3}=-0.02$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| eigensolver | . 71 | 0 | $\lambda_{4}=-0.02$ |
|  | . 69 | -. 14 |  |
|  | . 14 | . 69 |  |
|  | 0 | . 71 |  |

## Spectral Space

${ }^{-}$'Can put items into blocks by eigenvectors:

| 1 | 1 | .2 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | -.2 |
| .2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | -.2 | 1 | 1 |



| 1 | .2 | 1 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| .2 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 1 | 0 | 1 | -.2 |
| 0 | 1 | -.2 | 1 |



## How do we extract a good cluster?

- Simplest idea: we want a vector $x$ giving the association between each element and a cluster
- We want elements within this cluster to, on the whole, have strong affinity with one another
- We could maximize $x^{T} W x$
- But need the constraint $x^{T} x=1$
- This is an eigenvalue problem - choose the eigenvector of $W$ with largest eigenvalue.


## Minimum cut

- Criterion for partition:



## Normalized Cut

## Normalized cut or balanced cut:

$$
\operatorname{Ncut}(A, B)=\operatorname{cut}(A, B)\left(\frac{1}{\operatorname{vol}(A)}+\frac{1}{\operatorname{vol}(B)}\right)
$$



## Normalized Cut

- Volume of set (or association):

$$
\cdots \operatorname{vol}(A)=\operatorname{assoc}(A, V)=\sum_{u \in A, t \in \underline{V}} w(u, t)
$$

## Normalized Cut

- Volume of set (or association):

$$
\operatorname{vol}(A)=\operatorname{assoc}(A, V)=\sum_{u \in A, t \in V} w(u, t)
$$

- Define normalized cut: "a fraction of the total edge connections to all the nodes in the graph":
- Define normalized association: "how tightly on average nodes within the cluster are connected to each other"



## Observations(I)

- Maximizing Nassoc is the same as minimizing Ncut, since they are related:

$$
\operatorname{Ncut}(A, B)=2-\operatorname{Nassoc}(A, B)
$$

- How to minimize Ncut?
- Transform Ncut equation to a patricial form.
- After simplifying:

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
\min _{x} \operatorname{Ncut}(x)=\min _{y} \frac{y^{T}(D-W) y}{y^{T} D y} & \begin{array}{c}
\text { NPA's values are } \\
\text { quantized }
\end{array} \\
\text { Subject to: } y^{T} D 1=0 & \text { Rayleigh quotient } &
\end{array}
$$



## Observations(II)

- Instead, relax into the continuous domain by solving generalized eigenvalue system:

$$
\min _{y}\left(y^{T}(D-W) y\right) \text { subject to }\left(y^{T} D y=1\right)
$$

- Which gives: $(D-W) y=\lambda D y$
- Note that $(D-W) 1=0 \quad$ so, the first eigenvector is $y_{0}=1$ with eigenvalue 0 .
- The second smallest eigenvector is the real valued solution to this problem!!


## Algorithm

1. Define a similarity function between 2 nodes. i.e.:

$$
w_{i, j}=e^{\frac{\left.-\mid F_{i, i}-F_{i}()_{2}\right)}{\sigma_{i}^{2}} \frac{\left.-\mid x_{i(1)}-x_{e}\right)\left.\right|_{2} ^{2}}{\sigma_{x}^{2}}}
$$

2. Compute affinity matrix (W) and degree matrix (D).
3. Solve $(D-W) y=\lambda D y$
4. Use the eigenvector with the second smallest eigenvalue to bipartition the graph.
5. Decide if re-partition current partitions.

Note: since precision requirements are low, $\boldsymbol{W}$ is very sparse and only few eigenvectors are required, the eigenvectors can be extracted very fast using Lanczos algorithm.

## Discretization

Sometimes there is not a clear threshold to binarize since eigenvectors take on continuous values.


- How to choose the splitting point?
a) Pick a constant value (0, or 0.5).
b) Pick the median value as splitting point.
c) Look for the splitting point that has the minimum Ncut value:

1. Choose $n$ possible splitting points.
2. Compute Ncut value.
3. Pick minimum.

## Use $k$-eigenvectors

- Recursive 2-way Ncut is slow.
- We can use more eigenvectors to re-partition the graph, however:
- Not all eigenvectors are useful for partition (degree of smoothness).
- Procedure: compute $k$-means with a high $k$. Then follow one of these procedures:
a) Merge segments that minimize $k$-way Ncut criterion.
b) Use the $k$ segments and find the partitions there using exhaustive search.

| 1 | 1 | .2 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 0 | -.2 |
| .2 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 0 | -.2 | 1 | 1 |

- Compute Q (next slides).


## Example

Eigenvectors


Segments


## Experiments

Define similarity:

$$
w_{i, j}=e^{\frac{-\left\|F_{(i)}-F_{j(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{I}^{2}}+\frac{-\left\|X_{(i)}-X_{(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{X}^{2}}}
$$

- $F(i)=1$ for point sets.
- $F(i)=I(i)$ for brightness images.
- $F(i)=[v, v . s . \sin (h)$, v.s. $\cos (h)]$ for HSV images.
- $F(i)=\left[\left|I * f_{1}\right|, \cdots,\left|I^{*} f_{n}\right|\right]$ in case of texture.


## Experiments (I)

- Point set segmentation:

(a) Pointset generated by Poisson process. (b) Segmentation results.


## Experiments (II)

- Synthetic images:

(a)

(b)

(c)

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)


## Experiments (III)

- Weather radar:


(e)

(f)

(g)


## Experiments (IV)

- Motion segmentation

(a)
(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

(f)

(g)


## Other methods

- Average association
- Use the eigenvector of $W$ associated to the biggest eigenvalue for partitioning.
- Tries to maximize:

$$
\frac{\operatorname{assoc}(A, A)}{|A|}+\frac{\operatorname{assoc}(B, B)}{|B|}
$$



- Has a bias to find tight clusters. Useful for Gaussian distributions.


## Other methods

- Average cut
- Tries to minimize:

$$
\frac{\operatorname{cut}(A, B)}{|A|}+\frac{\operatorname{cut}(A, B)}{|B|}
$$

- Very similar to normalized cuts.
- We cannot ensure that partitions will have a a tight within-group similarity since this equation does not have the nice properties of the equation of normalized cuts.


## Other methods

Finding clumps
Finding splits


## Other methods



20 points are randomly distributed from 0.0 to 0.5 12 points are randomly distributed from 0.65 to 1.0


Average cut


(b)

(a)

Average association





## Other methods



## Other methods



20 points are randomly distributed from 0.0 to 0.5 12 points are randomly distributed from 0.65 to 1.0

(b)


Average cut


(c)



(d)

## Spectral Clustering for Image Segmentation

- Good news:
- Simple and powerful methods to segment images.
- Flexible and easy to apply to other clustering problems.
- Bad news:
- High memory requirements (use sparse matrices).
- Very dependant on the scale factor for a specific problem.

$$
W(i, j)=e^{\frac{\left.-\| x_{(i)}-x_{(j)}\right)_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{\bar{\sigma}}}}
$$

## Examples

$$
w_{i, j}=e^{\frac{-\left\|X_{(i)}-X_{(j)}\right\|_{2}^{2}}{\sigma_{X}^{2}}}
$$

Spectral
Clutering


## Spectral clustering

- 'Makes use of the spectrum of the similarity matrix of the data to cluster the points.


$$
\mathrm{w}(\mathrm{i}, \mathrm{j}) \rightarrow \text { distance node } \mathrm{i} \text { to node } \mathrm{j}
$$

## Graph terminology

Similarity matrix: $W=\left\lfloor w_{i, j}\right\rfloor \quad$ Degree of node: $d_{i}=\sum w_{i, j}$


Volume of set:



Graph cuts:




[^0]:    * Slides from Dan Klein, Sep Kamvar, Chris Manning, Natural Language Group Stanford University

