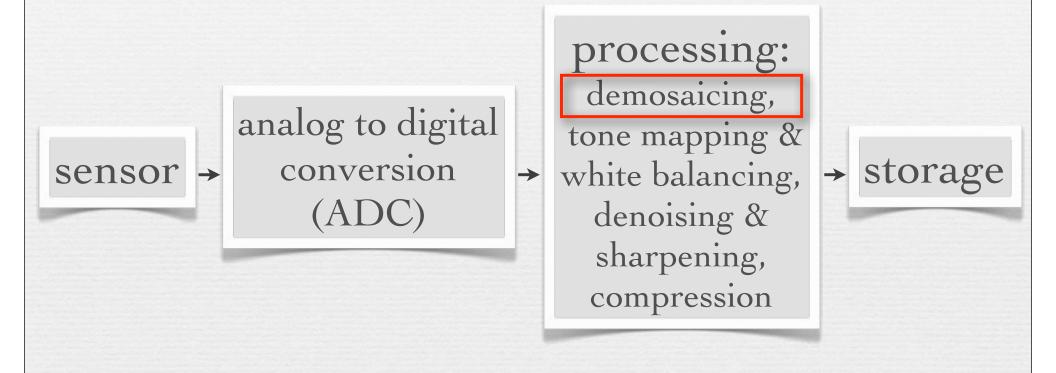
Post-processing pipeline

CS 178, Spring 2011



Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

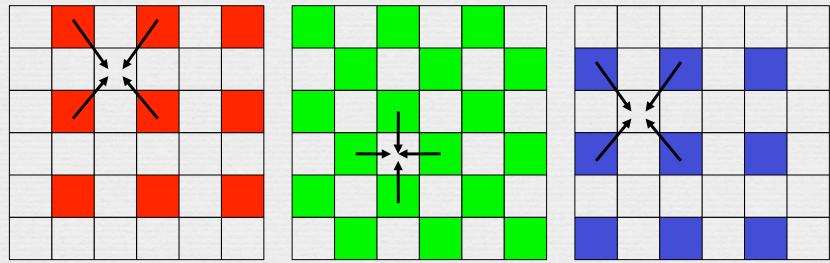
Camera pixel pipeline



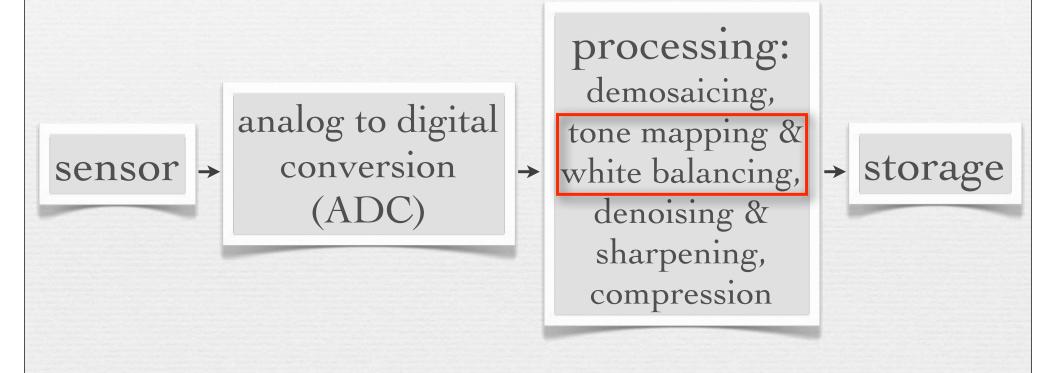
- every camera uses different algorithms
- the processing order may vary
- → most of it is proprietary

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...



Camera pixel pipeline

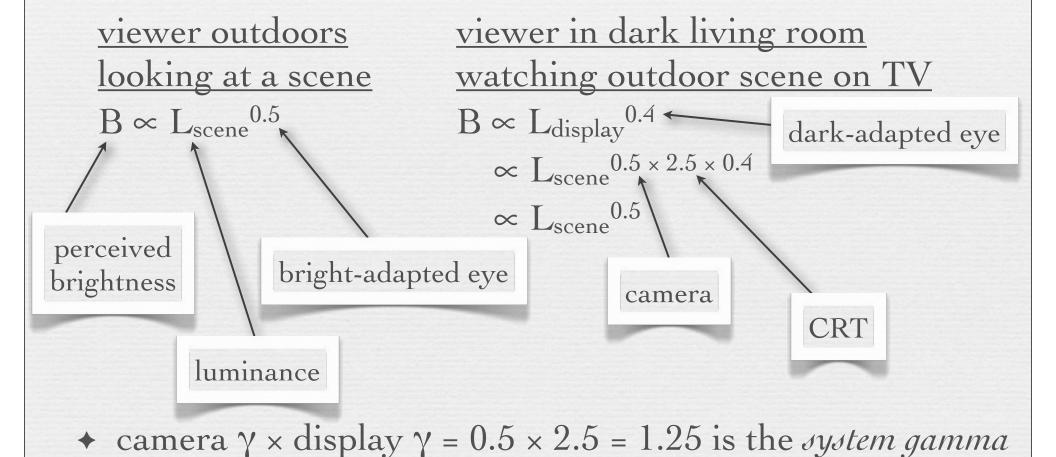


Gamma and gamma correction

- 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 was proportional to voltage γ with $\gamma \approx 2.5$, so TV cameras had to be designed to output scene luminance γ
 - in NTSC, cameras have $1/\gamma = 0.5$ to provide a residual system gamma

System gamma

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



Gamma and gamma correction



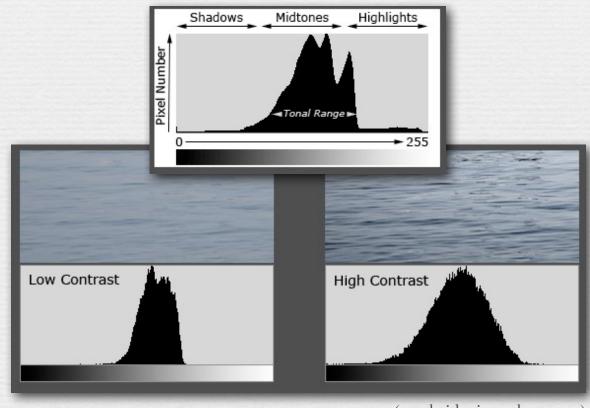
(FLASH DEMO)

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 was proportional to voltage γ with $\gamma \approx 2.5$, so TV cameras had to 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.

- manual editing
 - 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







 $\gamma = 0.5$

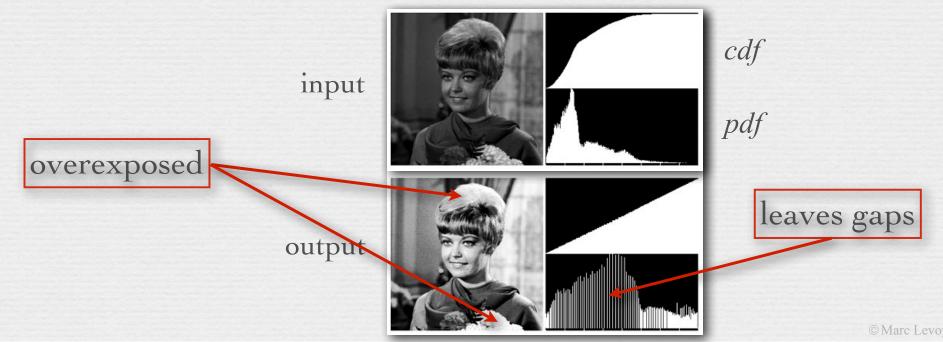


 $\gamma = 2.0$

- 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

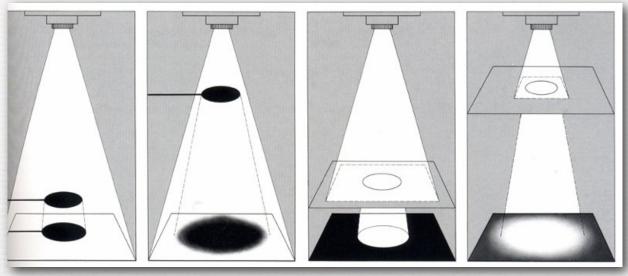
Histogram equalization

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



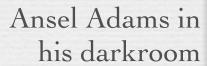
- manual editing
 - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
- ◆ gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
 - output = input $^{\gamma}$ (for $0 \le I_i \le 1$)
 - simple but crude
- → histogram equalization
- → global versus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

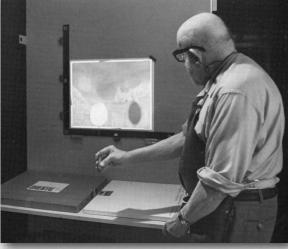
Traditional dodging and burning



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

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 (HDR) imaging

- → step 1: capturing HDR images
- → step 2a: direct display of HDR images, or
- * step 2b: tone mapping to create an LDR image for display

Capturing HDR images

→ assorted pixels

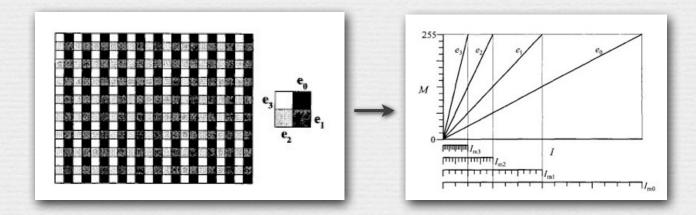


Fuji SuperCCD

- ◆ per-pixel neutral density filters [Nayar CPVR 2000]
 - throws away photons
 - trades spatial resolution for dynamic range



Sony





1/500s, f/5.6, ISO 800



1/125s



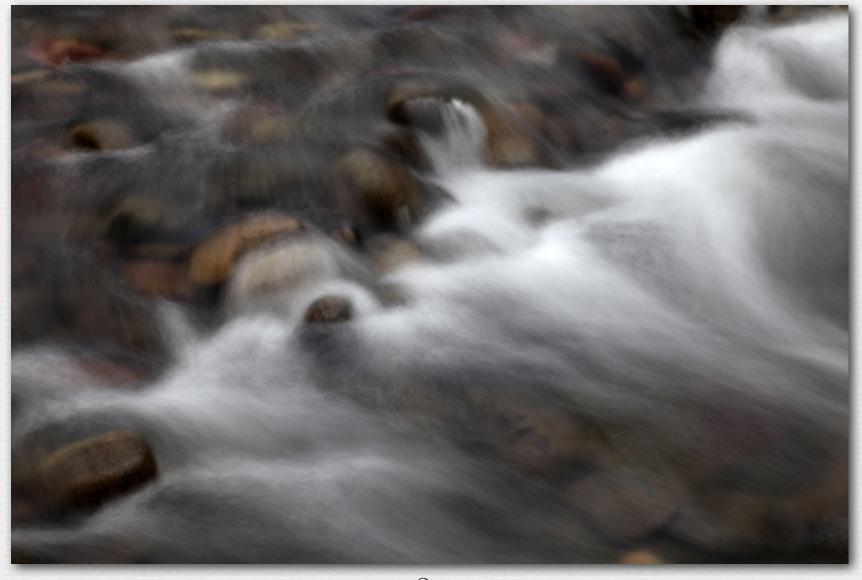
1/30s



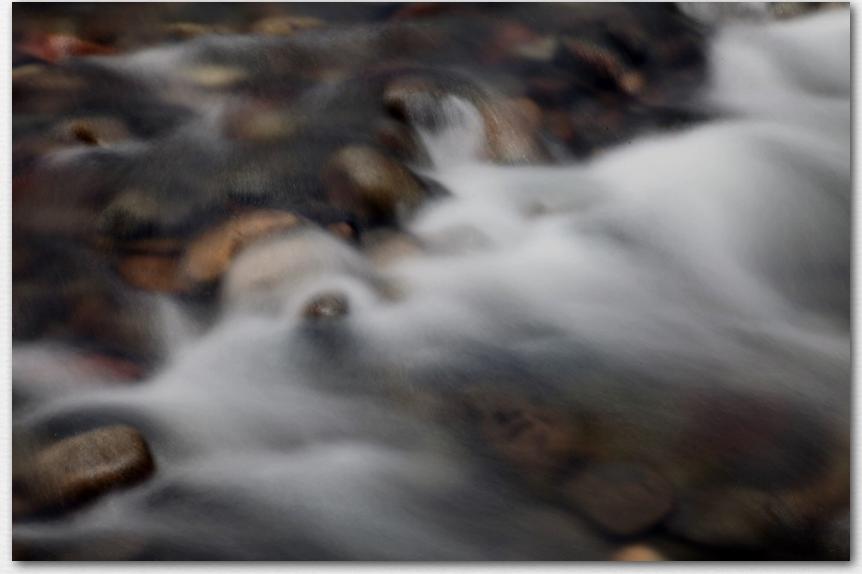
1/8s



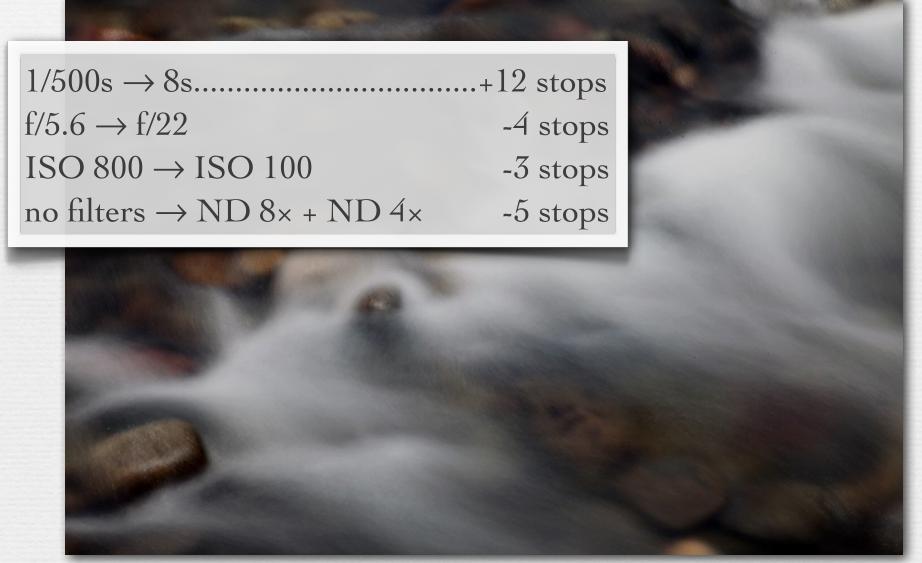
1/2s



2s



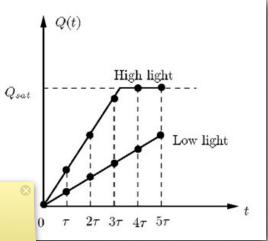
8s



Capturing HDR images

- → non-destructive readout of pixels [Gamal 1999]
 - measures light by counting time to saturation
 - improves dynamic range, but not SNR for low brightness levels

I forgot to mention this last point in class. Remember that SNR is a metric that is different for every scene brightness. As we learned in the noise lecture, if the scene is dim, then the number of photons is low, in which case the photon shot noise is high relative to the number of photons, and SNR is poor. Reading out pixel values more frequently lets us reliably measure intensity in bright pixels (because we read them before they saturate), but it doesn't provide any improvement in our measurement in dim pixels.









Pixim

Capturing HDR images

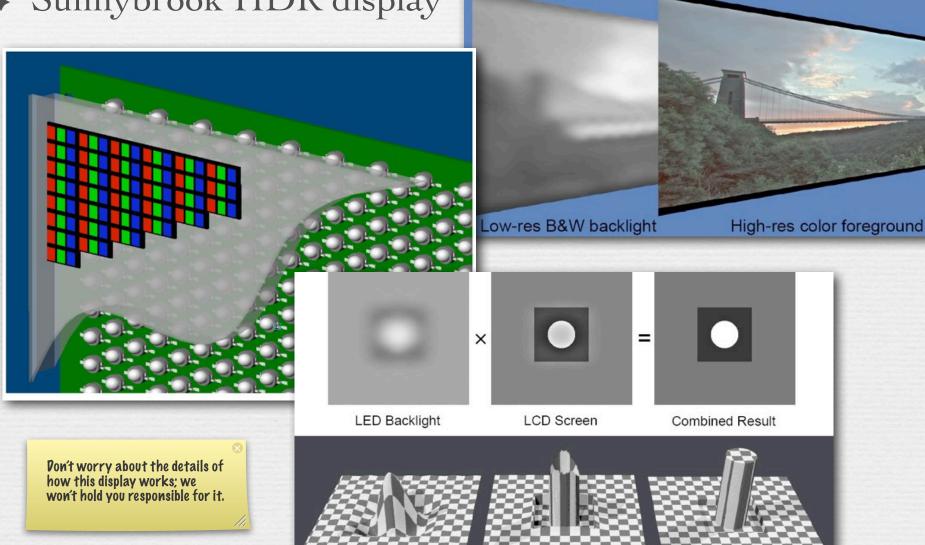
- multiple bracketed exposures [Debevec SIGGRAPH 1997]
- changing the exposure time is usually better than changing the aperture

Q. How about changing the ISO?



Direct display of HDR images

◆ Sunnybrook HDR display





Brightside HDR display

High dynamic range imaging (review)

- → step 1: capturing HI
- → step 2a: direct displa

As I sketched briefly in class, combining two images having different exposures into a single HPR image is simple in principle. Given image #1 taken with an exposure time of 1/30 second and image #2 with 1/60 second, a straightforward approach is to double the numbers in image #2 (from 0..255 to 0..511), then average the two images, first discarding any saturated pixels (value=255) in image #1. This produces an output image with an expanded range of 0..511. In practice one would want to weight more heavily any non-saturated pixel from the first image, since it gathered more photons (due to its longer exposure time) and would thus have a better SNR than the corresponding pixel from image #2. I will not hold you responsible for this material on the final exam.

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

you're not responsible for HDR tone mapping on your final

- → goals of HDR → LDR tone mapping
 - squeeze >12 of HDR image into 8 bits of JPEG
 - apply mapping for human adaption if scene was very dark
 - or bright...



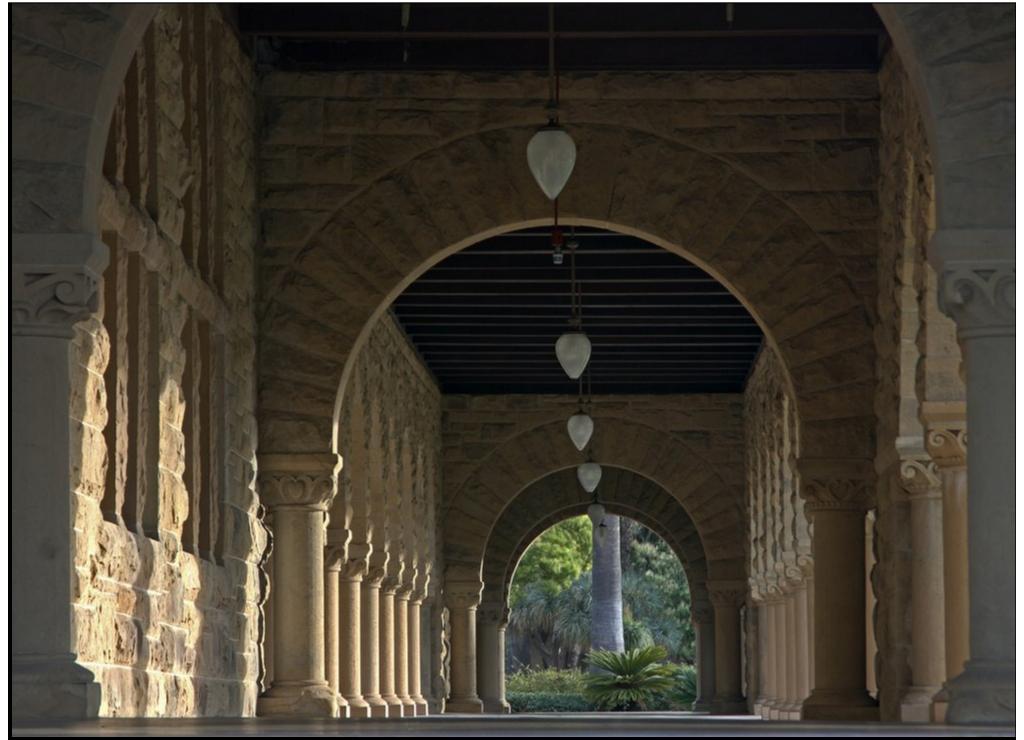


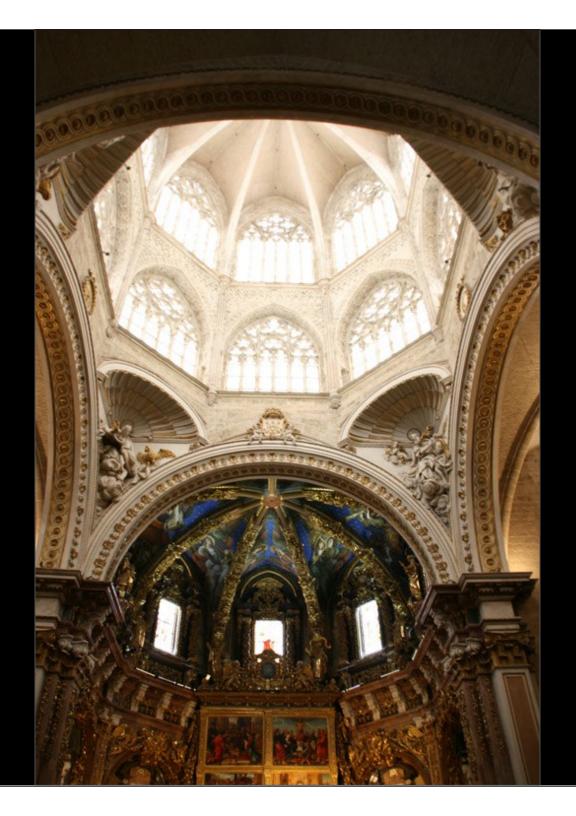




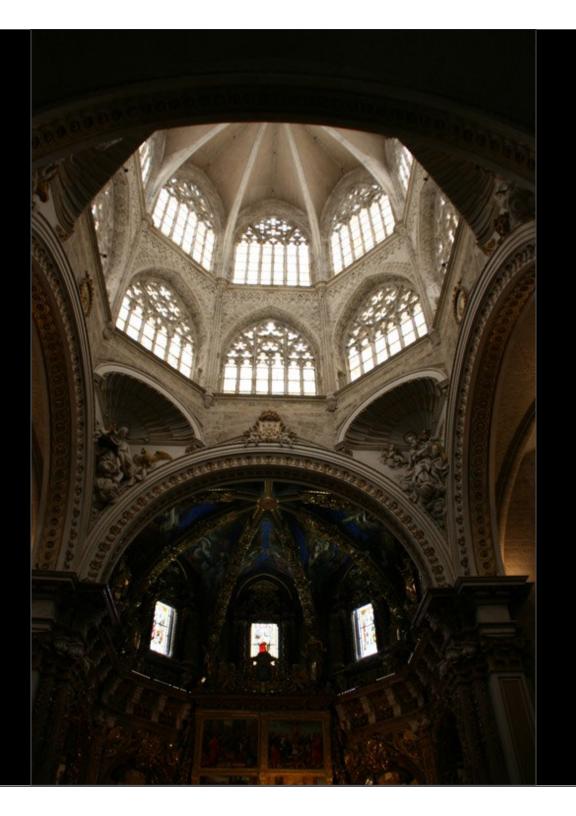








Cathedral, Valencia



Cathedral, Valencia



Cathedral, Valencia

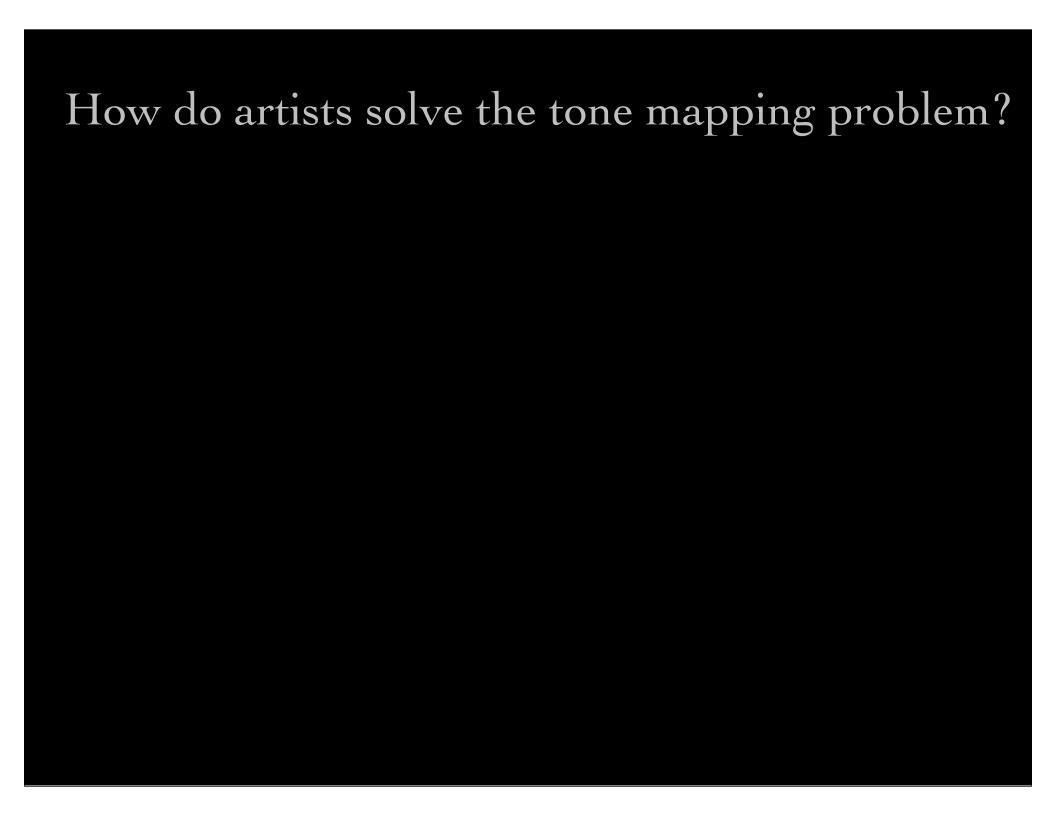
tone mapping in Photoshop CS4 by exposure and gamma

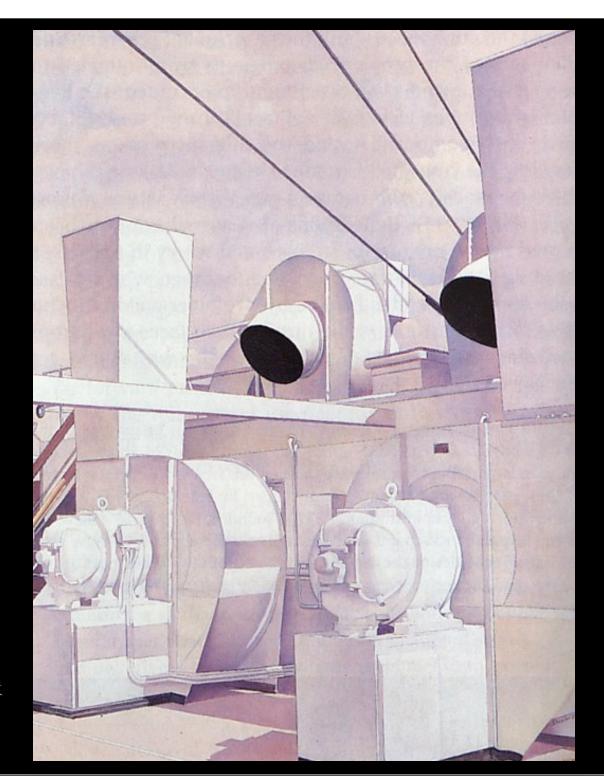


Cathedral, Valencia tone mapping in Photoshop CS4
by histogram equalization



Cathedral, Valencia





Charles Sheeler, The Upper Deck (1929)



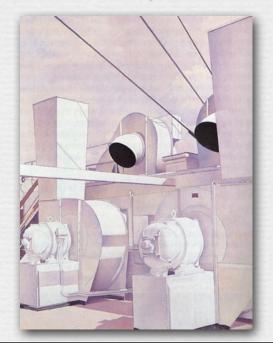
Joseph Wright, The Orrery (1765)

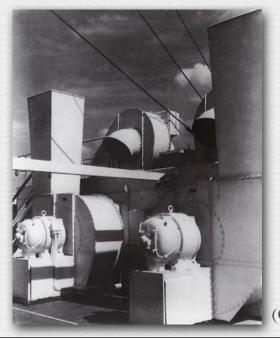
How do artists solve the tone mapping problem?

- for bright scenes
 - human vision is dazzled, compressing brightnesses
- ♦ for dark scenes
 - shadows are below threshold, so completely black



Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894) "The relation of optics to painting"

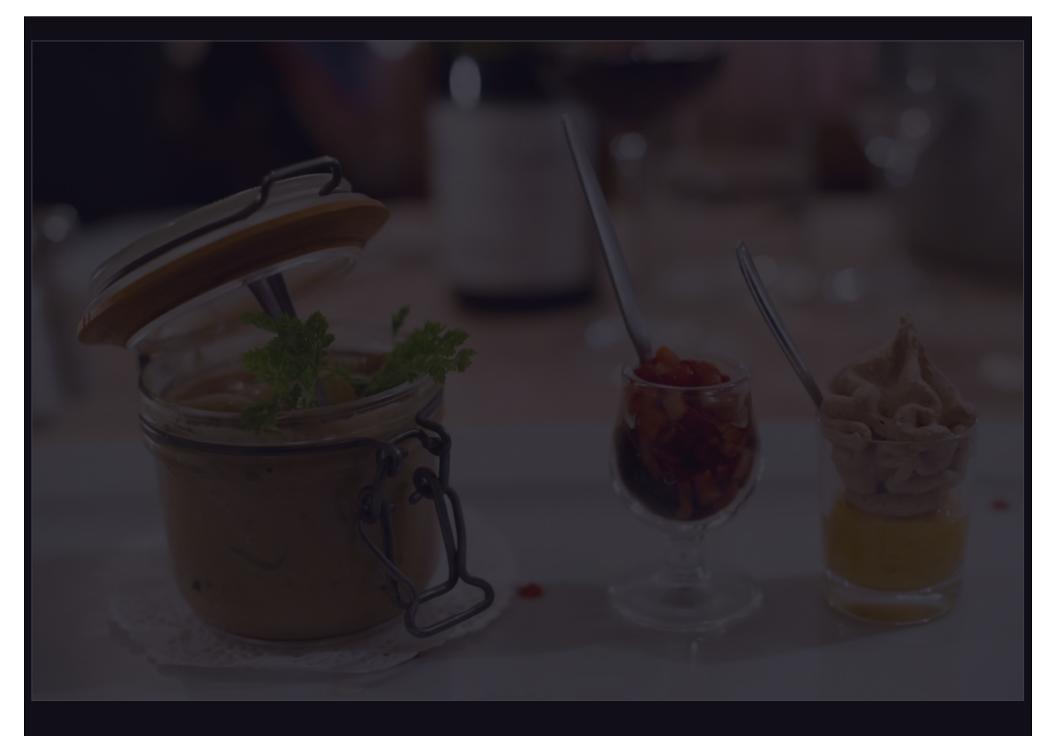


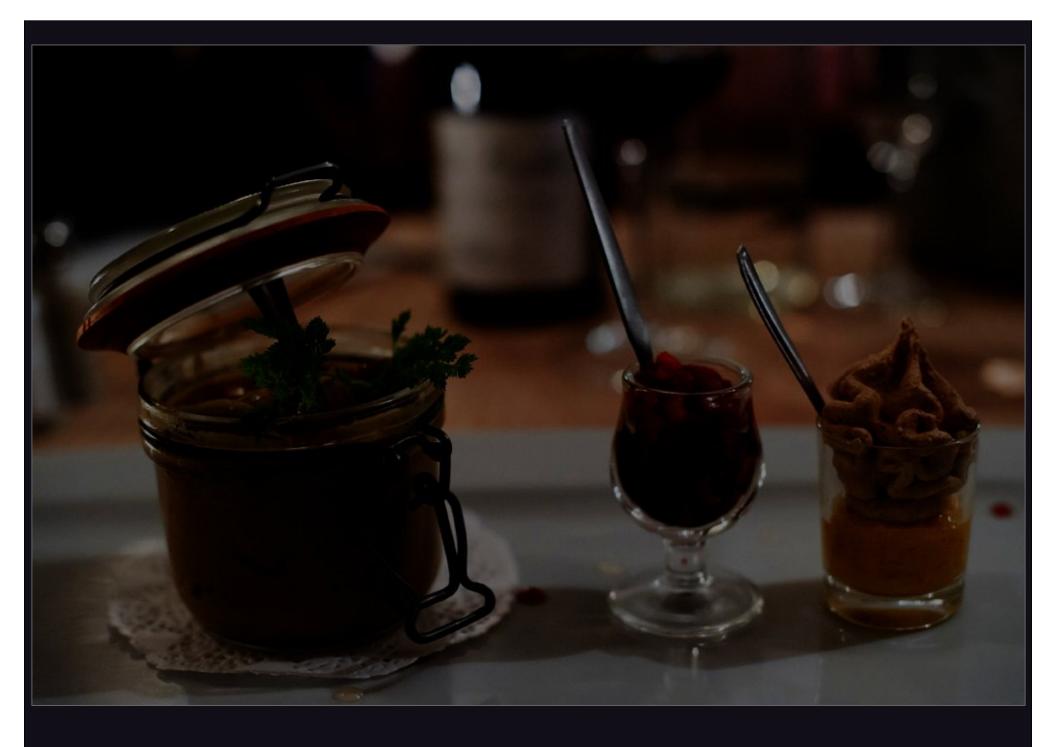


(Gardner)



(borrowed from lecture on noise)





Tone mapping techniques

(slides from Fredo Durand)

- → image has 10,000:1 dynamic range, projector has 1000:1
- ♦ how can we compress the image's dynamic range?



Global tone mapping operators

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

i.e. depend on gammatransform during RAW→ JPEG conversion

input



output

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



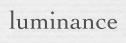


(try it yourself in Photoshop)



Global tone mapping operators

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





chrominance



(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

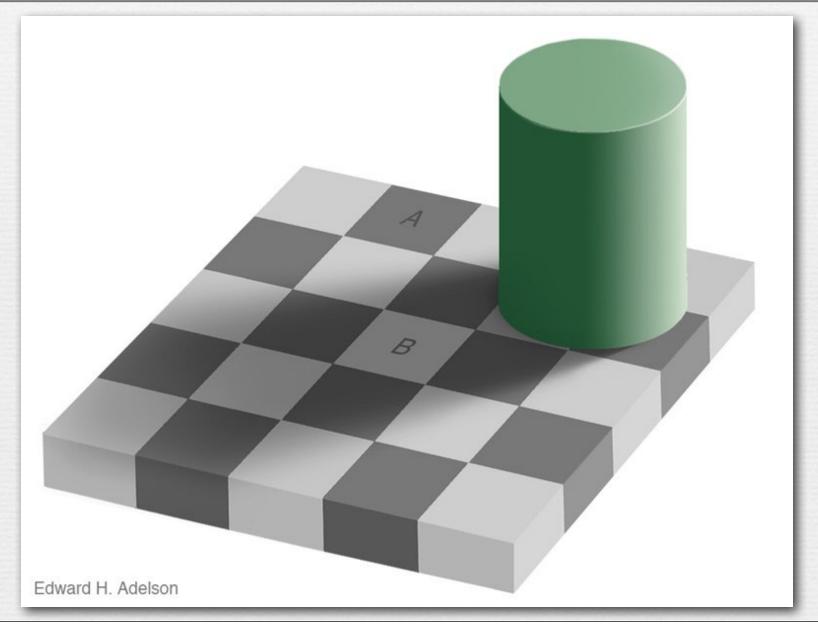


chrominance

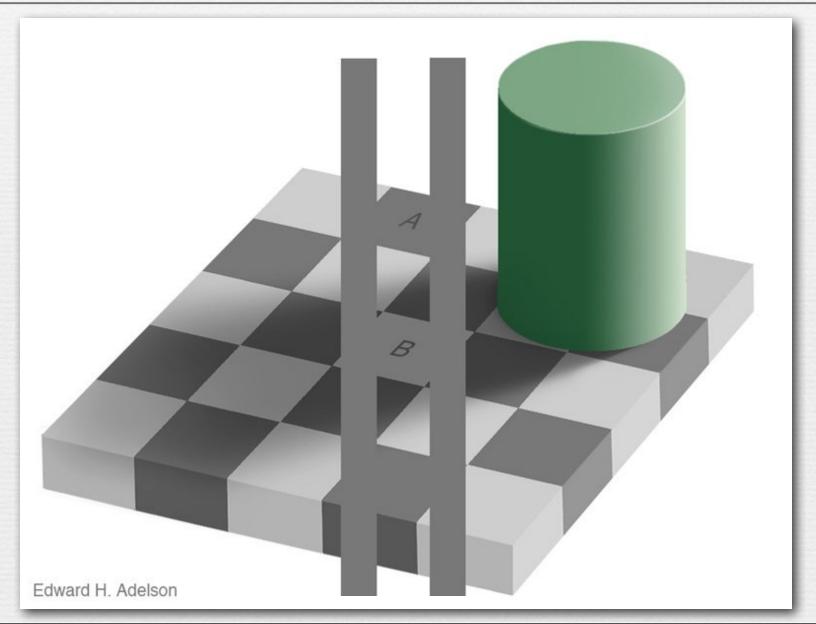




The importance of local contrast



The importance of local contrast



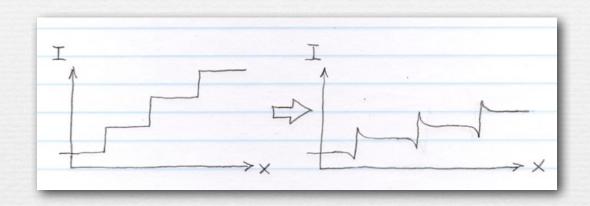
Tone mapping using bilateral filters

[Durand and Dorsey SIGGRAPH 2002]



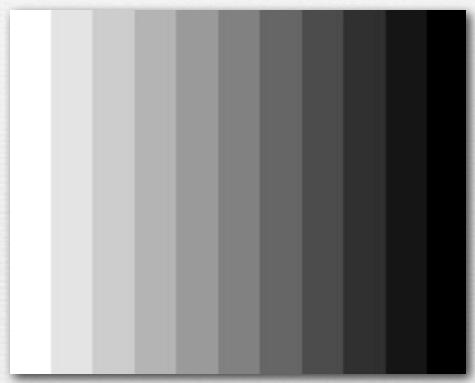


Why might tone mapping look cartoony? (contents of whiteboard)

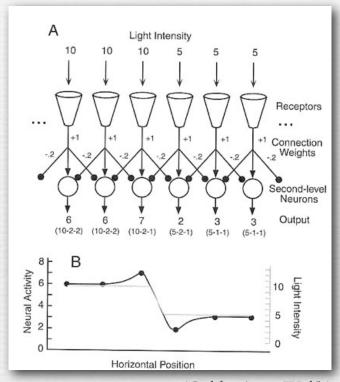


- ◆ a step wedge (at left) is converted by a tone mapping operator that enhances local contrast to the plot at right
 - the human eye does this internally due to lateral inhibition, but that doesn't necessarily mean we want to present an image like this to the human eye!

Mach bands and lateral inhibition



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



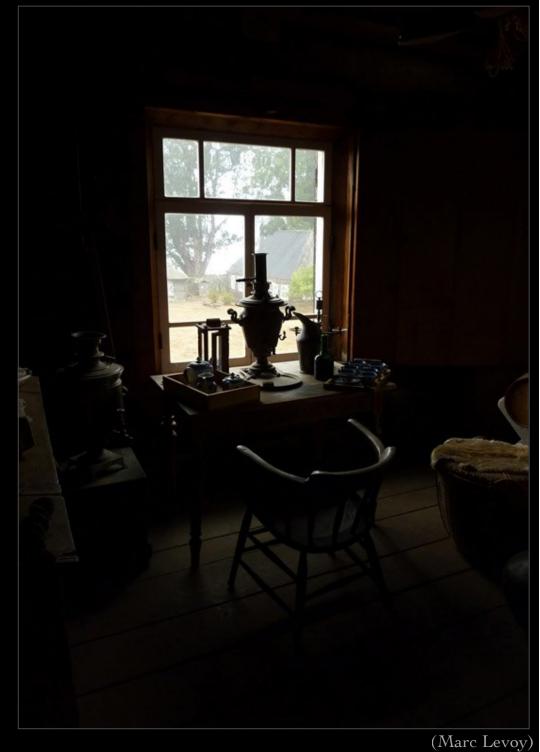
(Goldstein or Wolfe)

◆ 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)

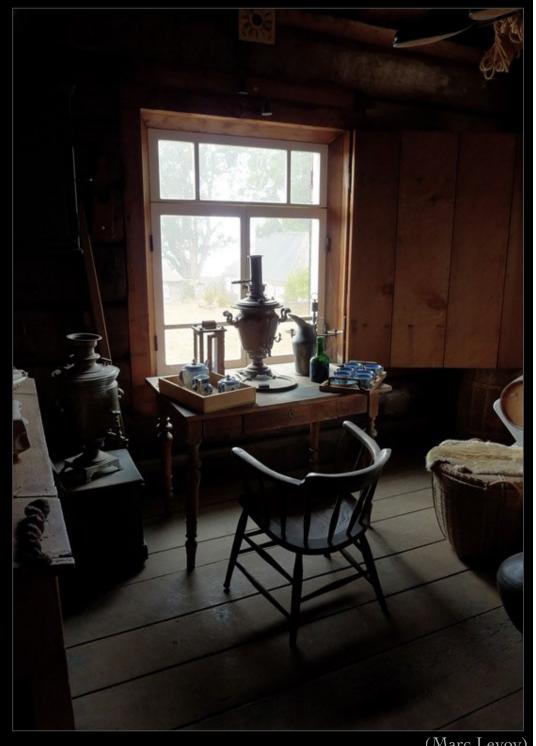


(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "detail enhancer" algorithm)



(Marc Levoy)

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



(Marc Levoy)

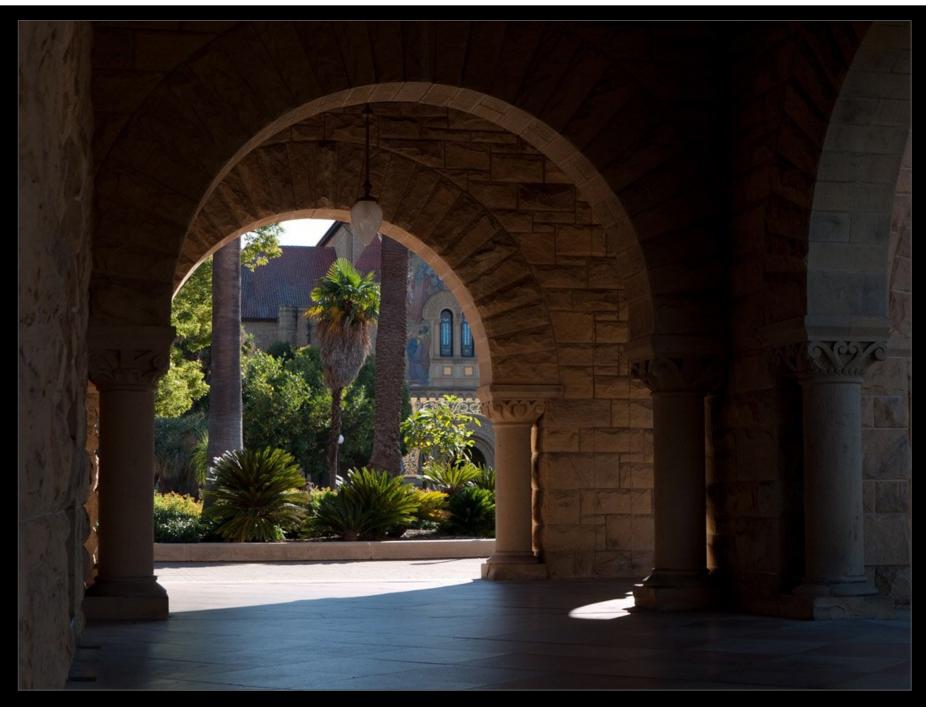
based on [Mertens 2007]

- 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

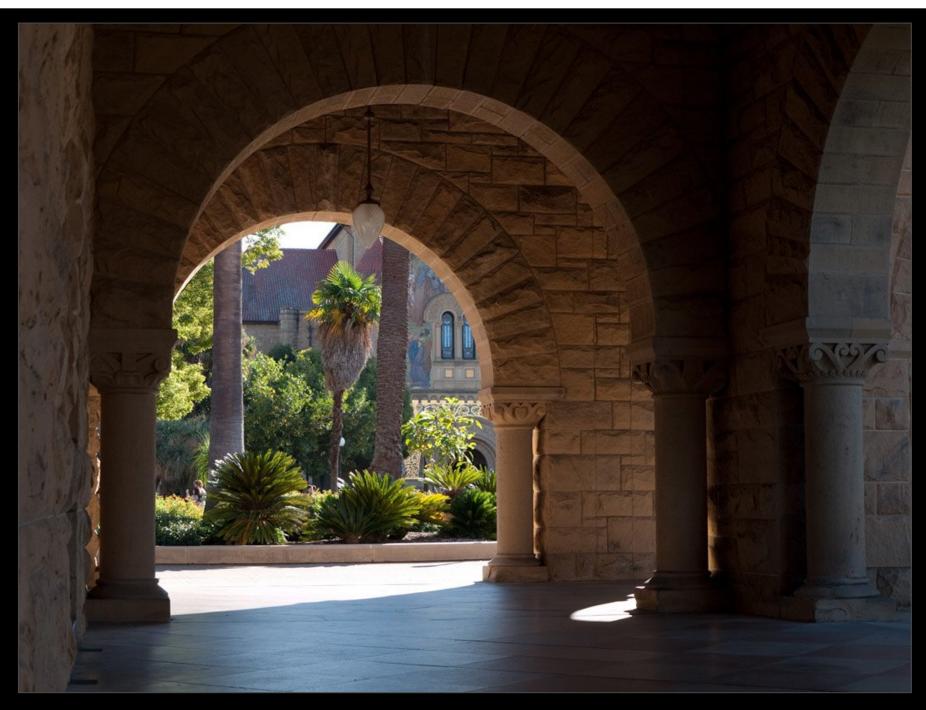
Commissary, Fort Ross, CA, 2010

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

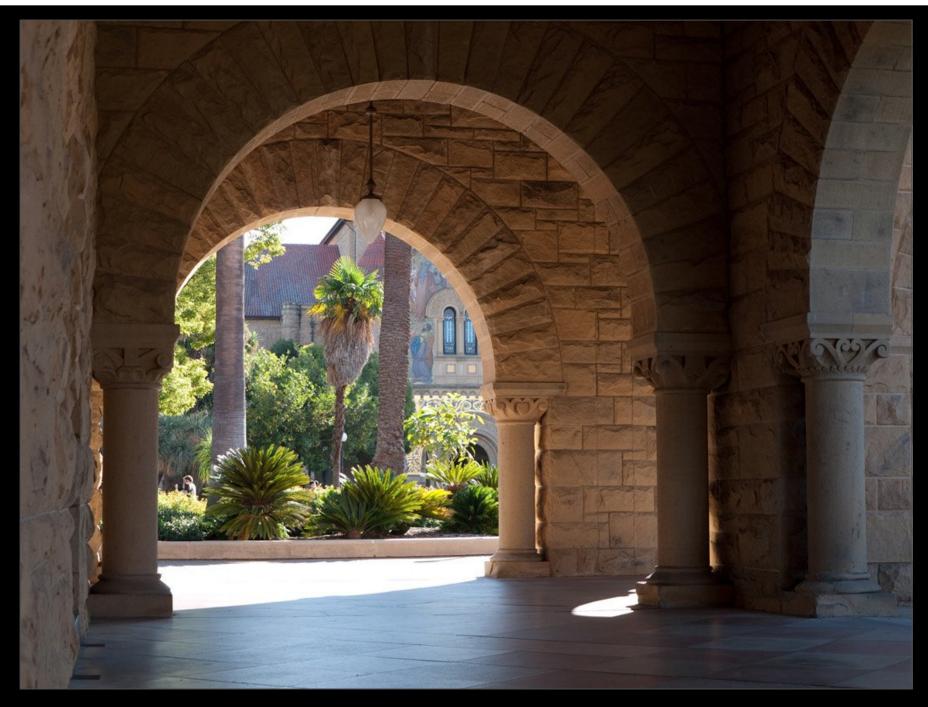




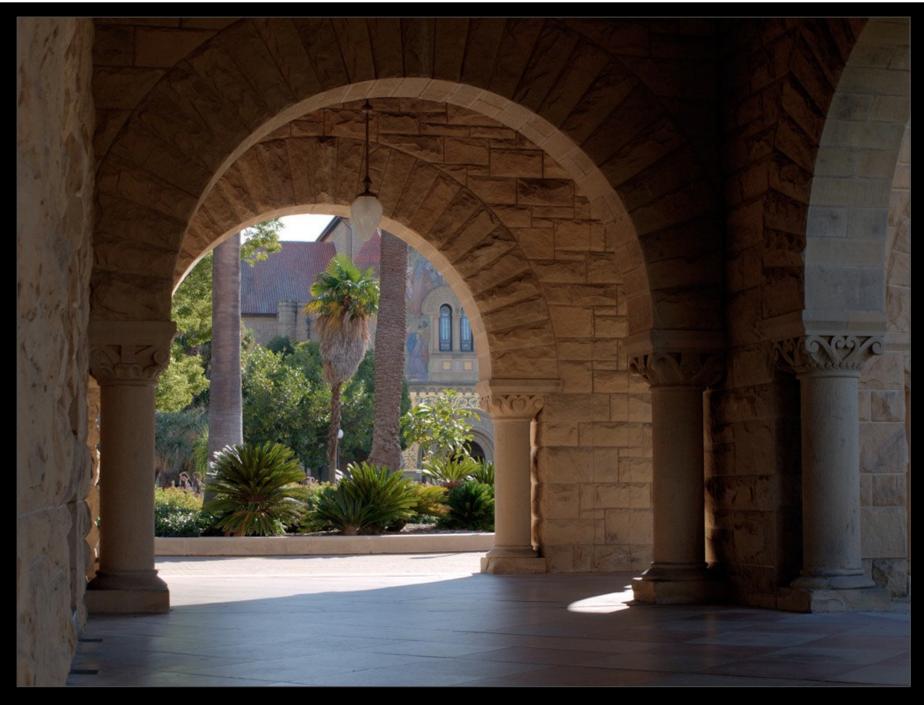
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/160s, f/6.3, ISO 100)



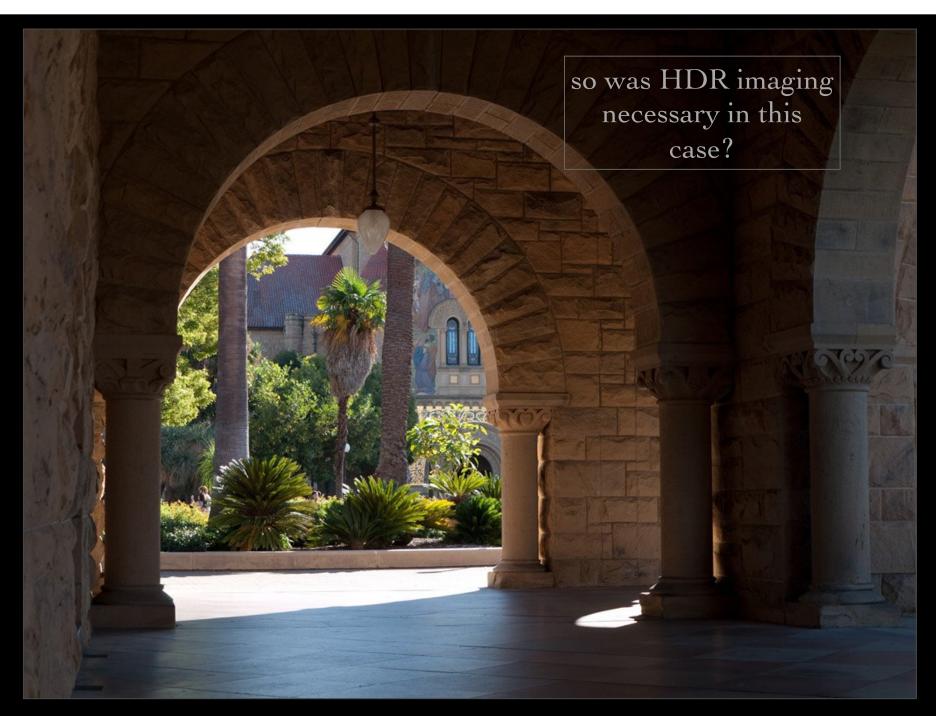
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/125s, f/5.6, ISO 100)



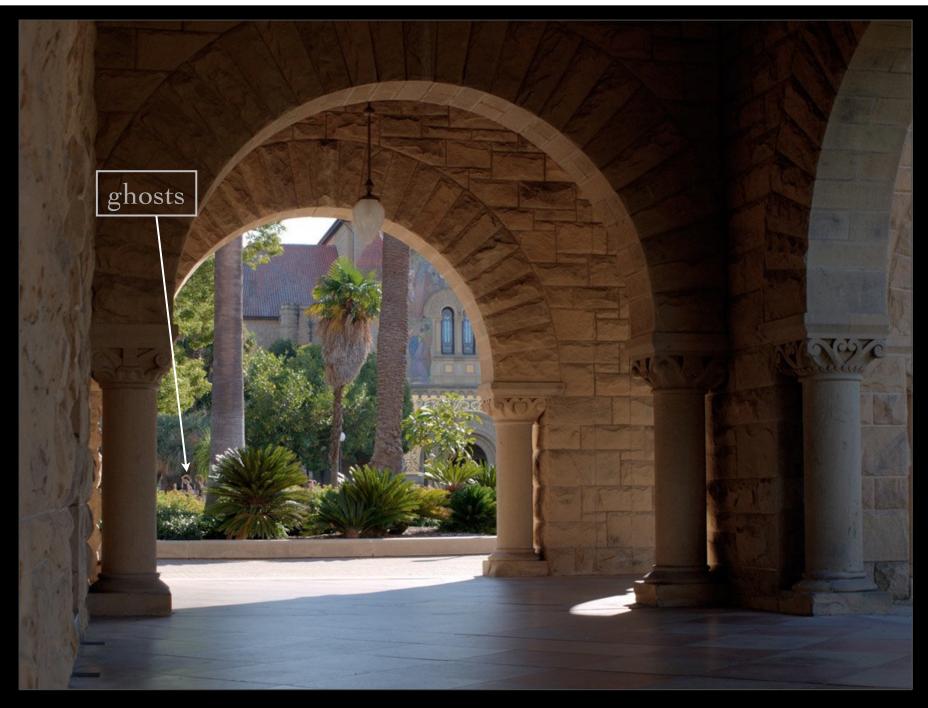
Stanford Arcade, 2009 (1/100s, f/5.4, ISO 100)



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



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



Stanford Arcade, 2009 (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"

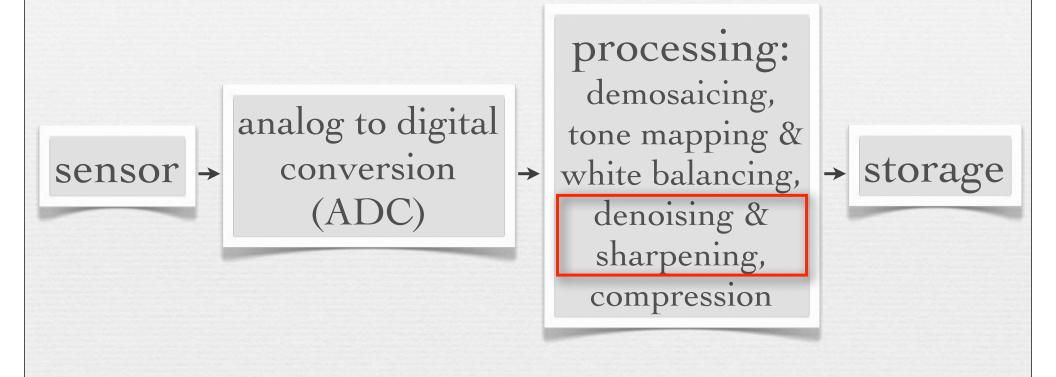


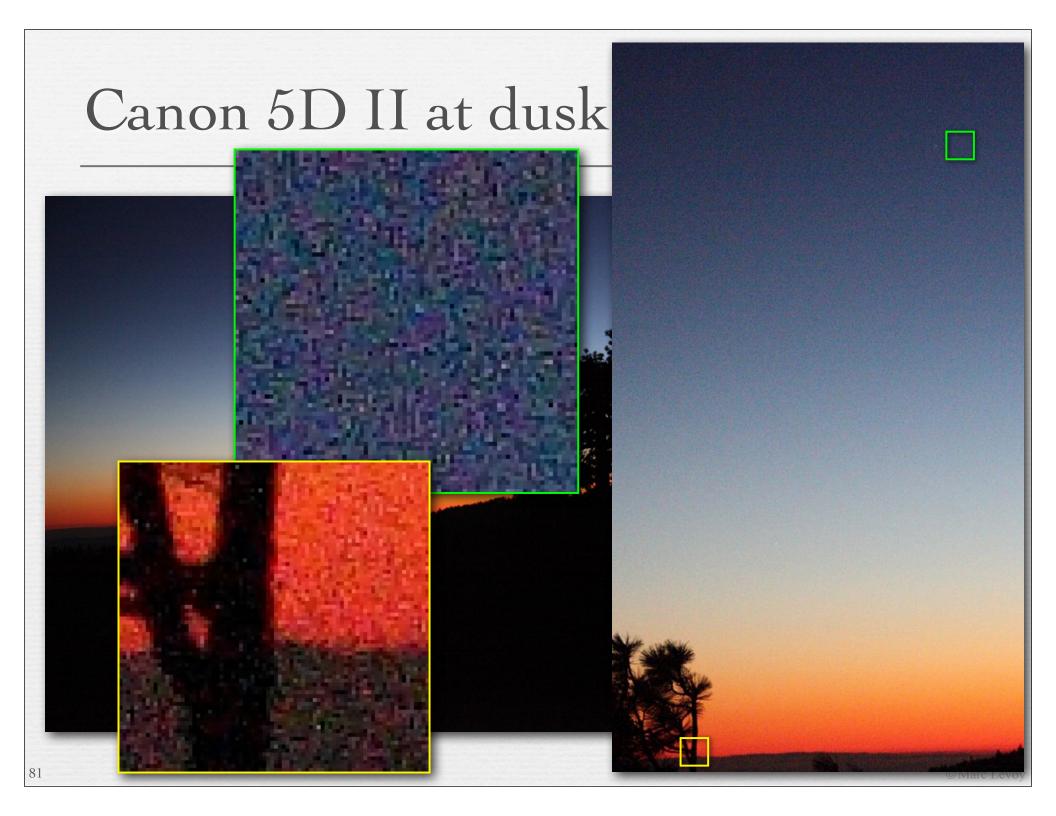
Recap

- ♦ 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

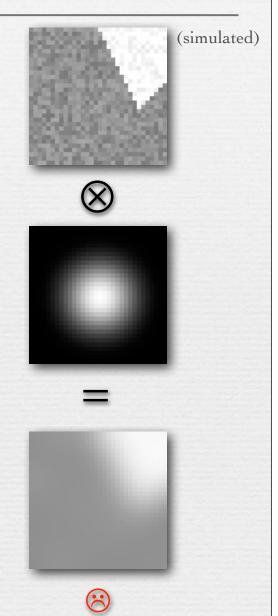
- → goal is to remove sensor noise
 - blurring works, but also destroys edges
 - I don't know what Canon does, but here's something that works...

Bilateral filtering [Tomasi ICCV 1998]

- images are often <u>piecewise constant</u>
 with noise added
 - in this case, nearby pixels are often a different noisy measurement of the same data

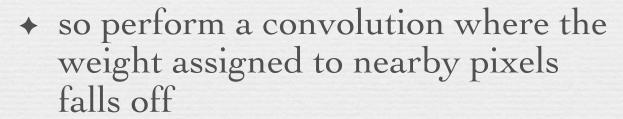
- simple blurring doesn't work
 - because it also blurs the edges

• we should do a weighted blur where the weight is high only if a pixel is from the same piece of the scene...

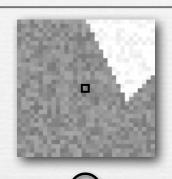


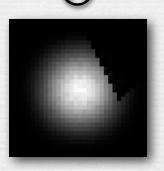
Bilateral filtering

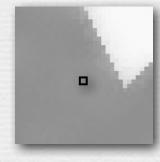
→ if the pixels are similar in intensity, they are probably from the same piece of the scene



- 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



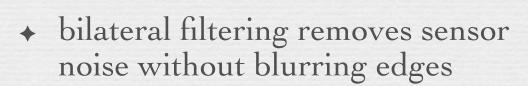
RAW (ISO 6400)



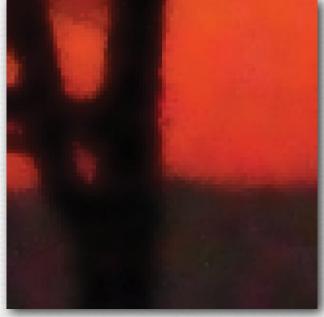
Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising



can easily be extended to RGB



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

Marc Levoy

Sharpening



original

(Marc Levoy)





Filter/Other/Custom in Photoshop CS4

OK

Cancel

Load...

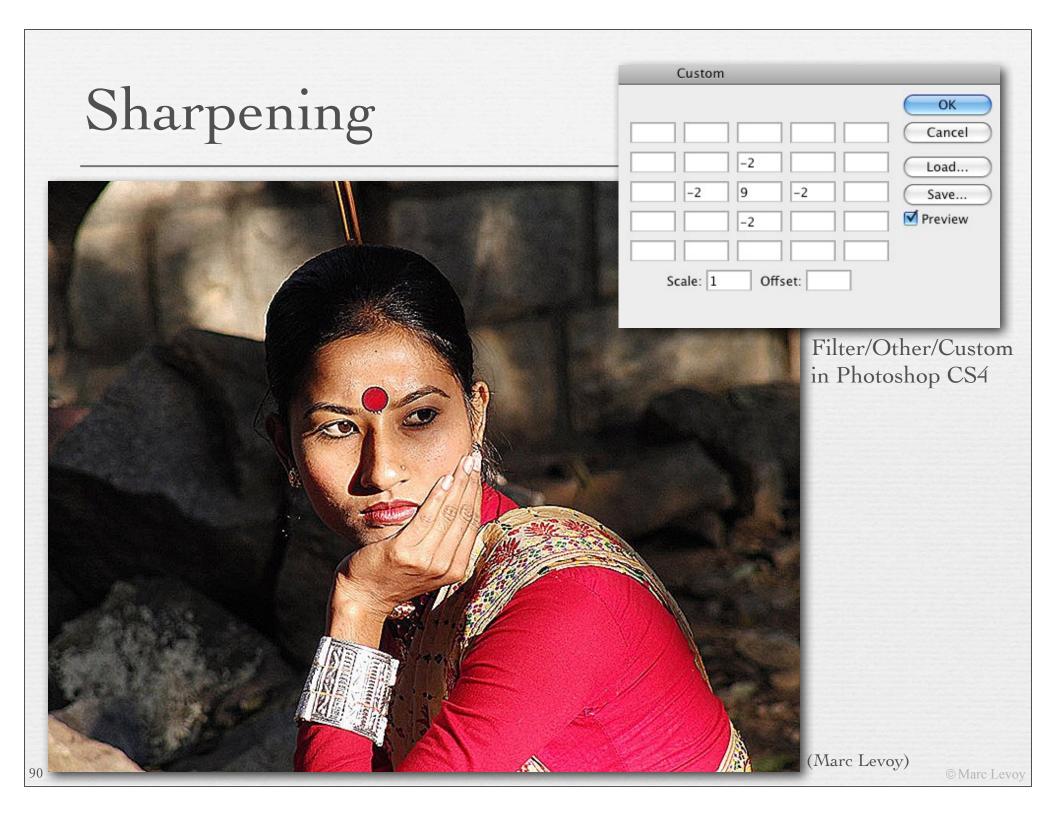
Save...

Preview

Custom

(Marc Levoy)

© Marc Levoy



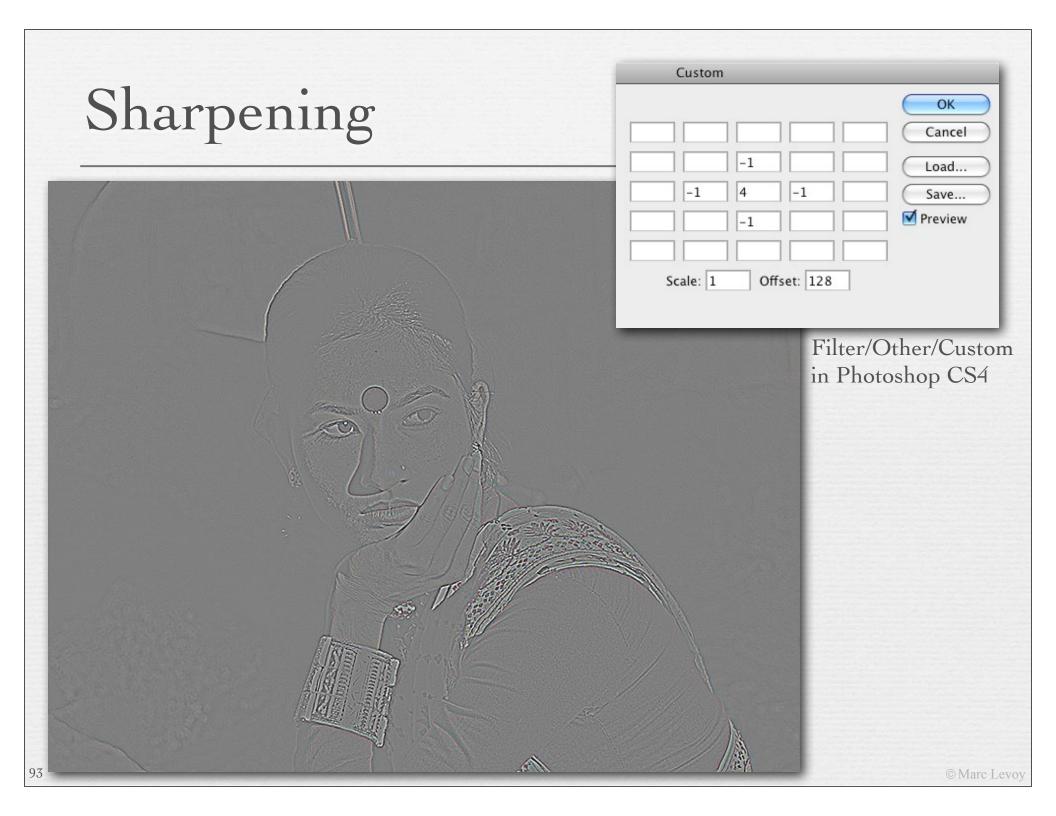
Sharpening



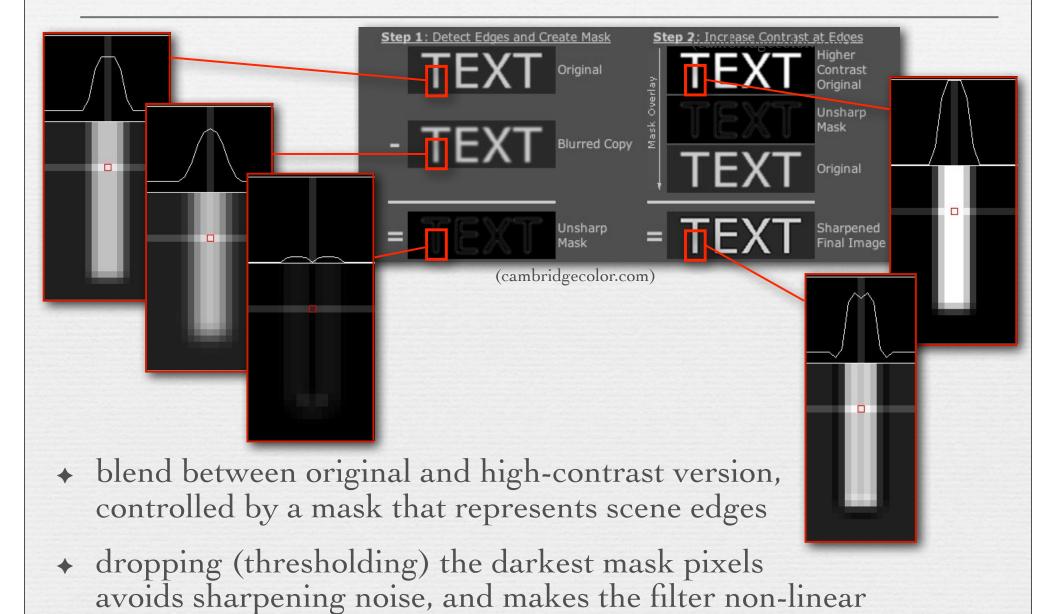
original

(Marc Levoy)





Unsharp masking







Filter/Other/Custom in Photoshop CS4

OK

Cancel

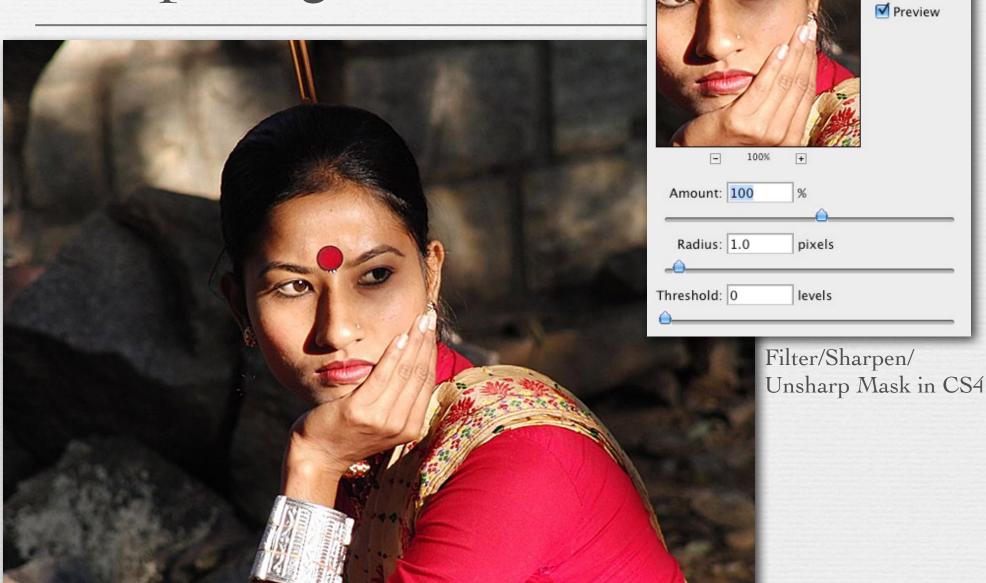
Load...

Save...

Preview

Custom





© Marc Levoy

Unsharp Mask

ОК

Cancel

Sharpening



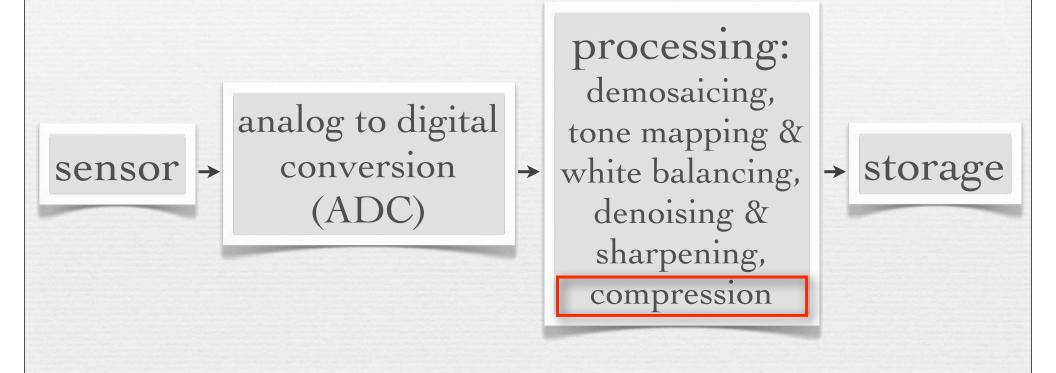
original

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 sharpens edges but doesn't sharpen noise
 - 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



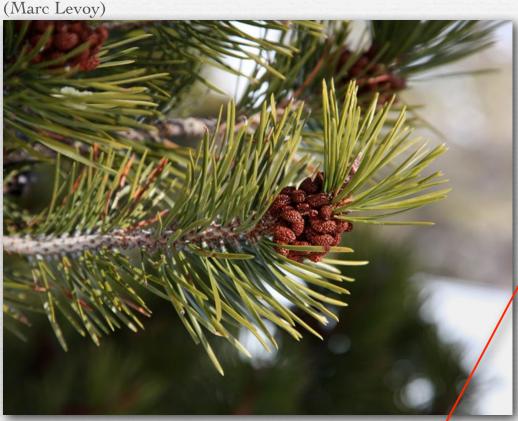
JPEG files

- → 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

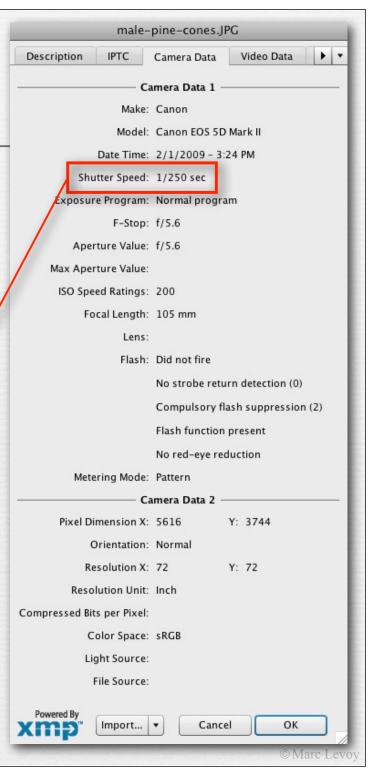
File/File Info in Photoshop CS4





shot with Canon 5D Mark II

Shutter Speed: 1/250 sec



Focal Length

: 105.0 mm

exiftool



shot with Canon 5D Mark II

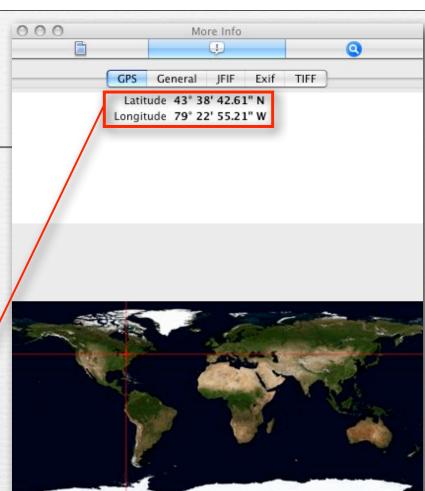
Focus Distance Upper Focus Distance Lower

: 0.7

: 0.67



Locate



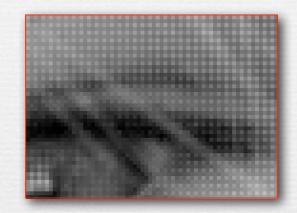


shot with iPhone 3G

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

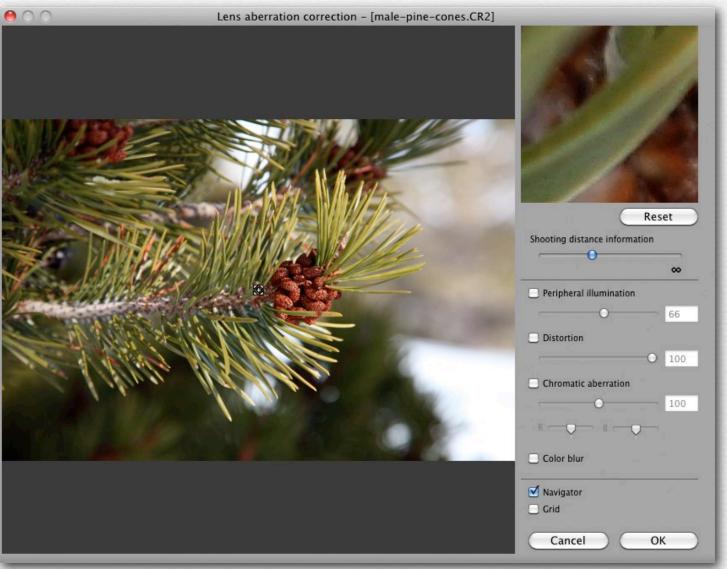
RAW files

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

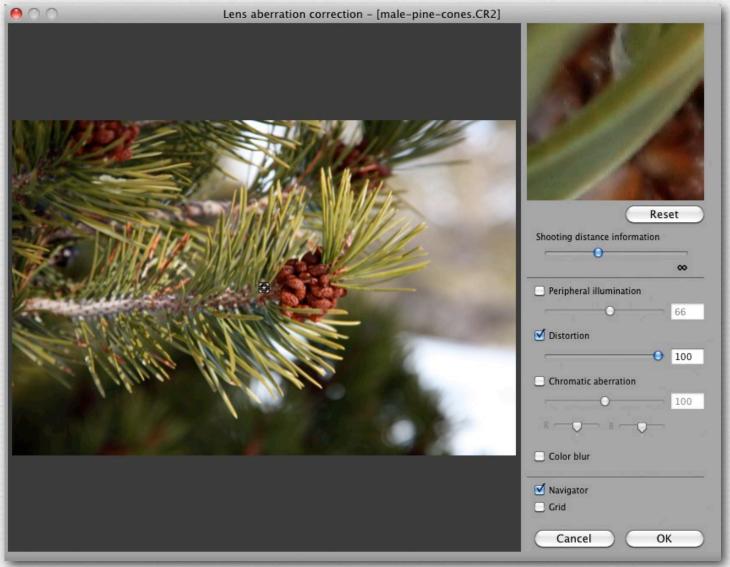


- processed and converted to a JPEG file using
 - proprietary software (e.g. Canon Digital Photo Professional)
 - Photoshop or Lightroom (if they support your camera)
 - freeware programs like dcraw
 - but their processing algorithms are all different!

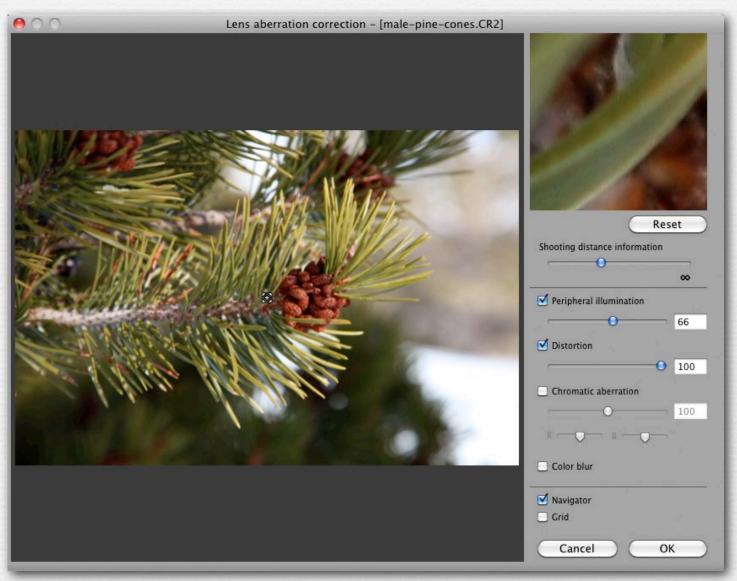
Lens aberration correction panel in Canon Digital Photo Professional



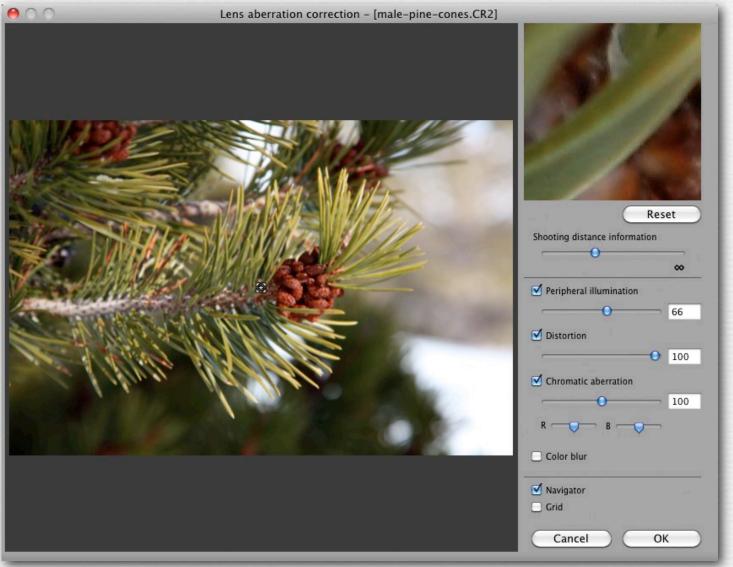
Lens aberration correction panel in Canon Digital Photo Professional



Lens aberration correction panel in Canon Digital Photo Professional

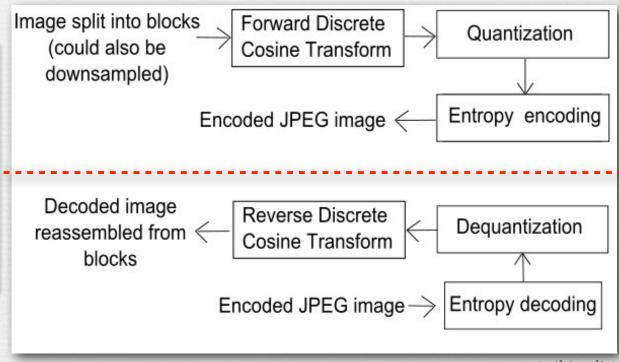


Lens aberration correction panel in Canon Digital Photo Professional



compression (in camera)

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



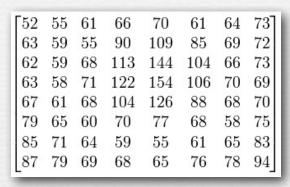
decompression (for display)

(wikipedia)

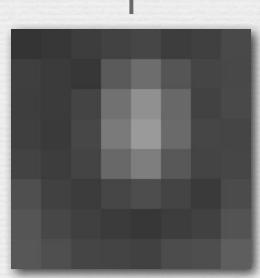
zero-centered image

As a student rightfully pointed out, I erred in calling the above image "zero-mean". Rather, it is "zero-centered", meaning that it is computed from the image to its right by subtracting 128. This changes its range from 0..255 to -128..+127.

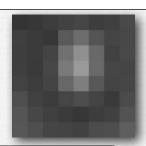
- ♦ step #1: split into 8×8 pixel blocks
- ♦ step #2: quantize to 8 bits / pixel
- ♦ step #3: convert to zero-mean



8-bit image



8×8 pixel block



zero-centered image

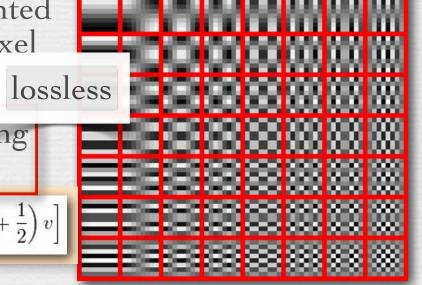
$$\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\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

discrete cosine transform (DCT)

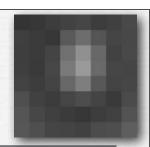
- → any 8×8 pixel zero-mean image can be represented by a weighted sum of the 64 different 8×8 pixel basis functions shown at right loss.

 Ioss
- → <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
```

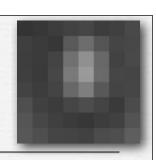
bin size for each coefficient

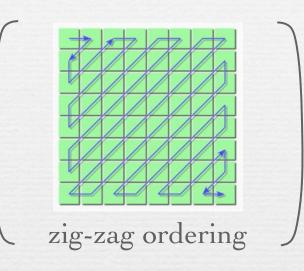
```
\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\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

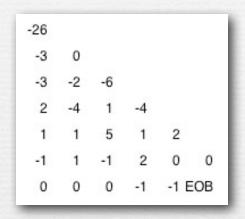
discrete cosine transform (DCT)

- ♦ the human visual system is more sensitive to low & mid frequencies than very high frequencies, so quantize the latter coarsely lossy
- → <u>step #5</u>: quantize the DCT coefficients using bins whose size increases with frequency

quantized DCT coefficients

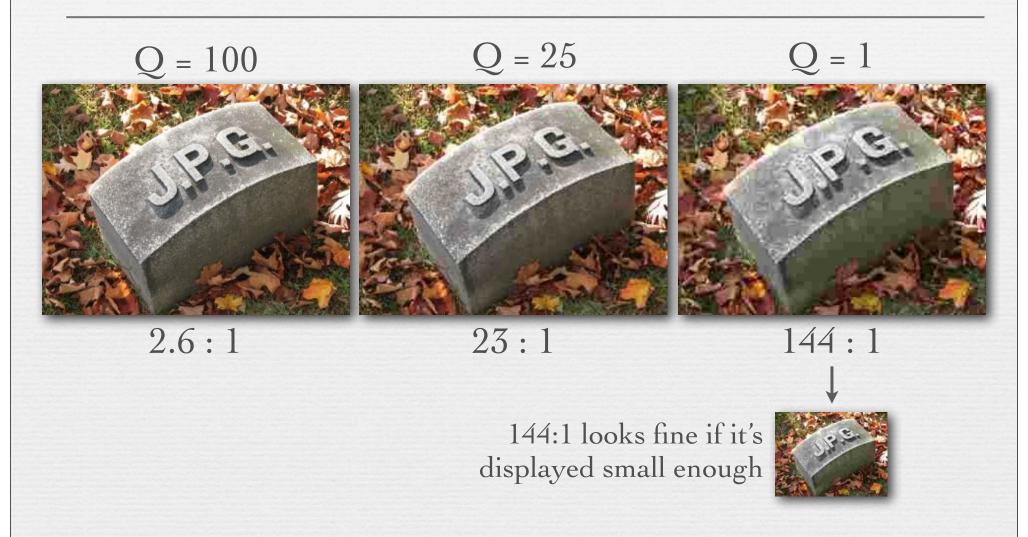






- ◆ step #6: arrange the non-zero coefficients in zig-zag order lossless
- → <u>step #7</u>: use run-length encoding to remove repeated elements
- ◆ <u>step #8</u>: apply Huffman coding to reduce number of bits needed for each coefficient

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 cosinusoids (DCT)
 - the coefficients of high frequency cosinusoids 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.