

SELF-DUALITY AND DISCRETE TOPOLOGY: LINKS BETWEEN THE MORPHOLOGICAL TREE OF SHAPES AND WELL-COMPOSED GRAY-LEVEL IMAGES

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OBJECTIVE

a self-dual representation of gray-level images without topological issues

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KEYPOINT

- one connectedness relationship
- i.e., a unique topological structure

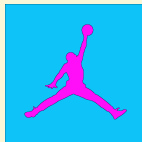
REMINDER

Let's start by reviewing some basic things about:

- digital topology
- self-duality
- mathematical morphology

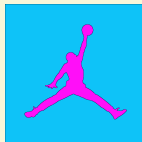
JORDAN CURVE THEOREM

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in discrete topology, a “Jordan pair” of connectivities (c_α, c_β) are required: one for the interior, the other for the exterior

for instance: (c_4, c_8) in 2D, (c_6, c_{18}) or (c_6, c_{26}) in 3D, (c_{2n}, c_{3n-1}) in n D.

CONNECTIVITIES AND SETS

Practially, given a set X :

- choose either c_α or c_β for the “object” X
- choose the other one for the “background”, i.e., $\mathbb{C}X$
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in this talk:

- $X \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$
- so we follow the path of Bhattacharya, Eckart, Latecki, Rosenfeld, and Wang...

SELF-DUALITY

Imagine that you process an image u :

$$u \xrightarrow{\text{processing}} \varphi(u)$$

SELF-DUALITY

Imagine that you apply the same processing to $\mathbb{C}u$:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} u & \xrightarrow{\text{processing}} & \varphi(u) \\ \text{complementation} \downarrow & & \\ \mathbb{C}u & \xrightarrow{\text{processing}} & \varphi(\mathbb{C}u) \end{array}$$

SELF-DUALITY

You may want a self-dual behavior:

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that is, you process the same way the image contents whatever the contrast

(i.e., light objects over dark background versus dark objects over light background)

sometimes:

- we cannot make an assumption about contrast
- we do not want to make such an assumption
because “object” $\neq$ “subject” $\rightsquigarrow$



MATHEMATICAL MORPHOLOGY (MM)

A VERY PARTICULAR WAY TO DEFINE MM

- a gray-scale image is considered as a landscape; gray values are elevations
 - to process an image is to modify the landscape, i.e., its topography
 - we transform the shape of the landscape

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A possible taxonomy of MM:

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- on sets (binary images) or on functions (gray-level images)
- dual operators or self-dual operators
- connected operators or not

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The context of this work;

- the powerful subset of MM emphasized above
- this subset relies on component trees

TWO MORPHOLOGICAL DUAL TREES...

A COUPLE OF DUAL SETS

Given a n D image $u : \mathbb{Z}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$,

lower level sets: $[u < \lambda] = \{x \in X \mid u(x) < \lambda\}$

upper level sets: $[u \geq \lambda] = \{x \in X \mid u(x) \geq \lambda\}$

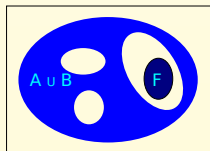
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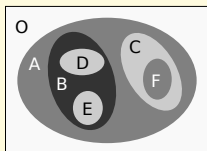
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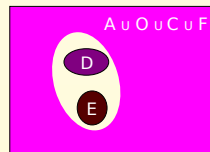
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a lower level set



u



a upper level set

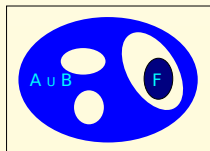
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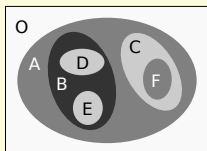
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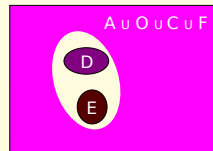
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a lower level set



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$\rightsquigarrow$ we focus on the connected component of the lower and upper level sets

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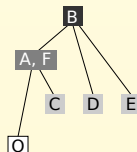
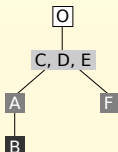
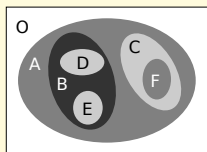
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...AND A SELF-DUAL TREE

SHAPES

With the cavity-fill-in operator Sat :

$$\text{lower shapes: } \mathcal{S}_{<}(u) = \{ \text{Sat}(\Gamma); \Gamma \in \mathcal{T}_{<}(u) \}$$

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PROPERTY = SELF-DUALITY

$$\text{we “almost” have: } \mathfrak{S}(\mathbb{C}u) = \mathfrak{S}(u)$$

—that contrasts with the duality of the min- and max- trees: $\mathcal{T}_{\geq}(\mathbb{C}u) = \mathcal{T}_{<}(u)$ —

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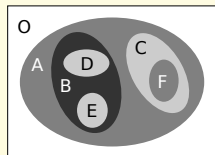
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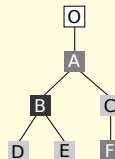
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SCHEMATIC EXAMPLE

image

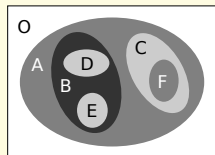


tree of shapes

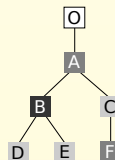


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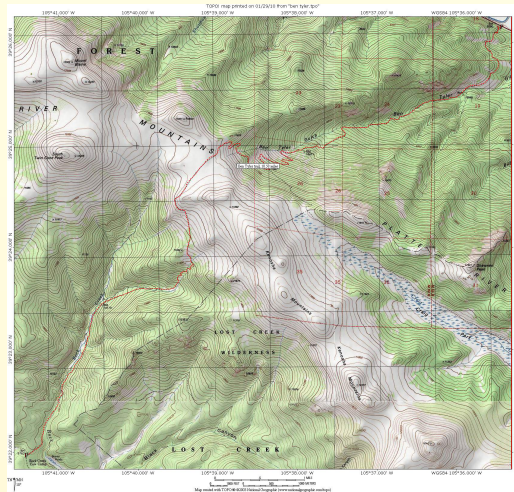


ALT. DEFINITIONS OF SHAPES

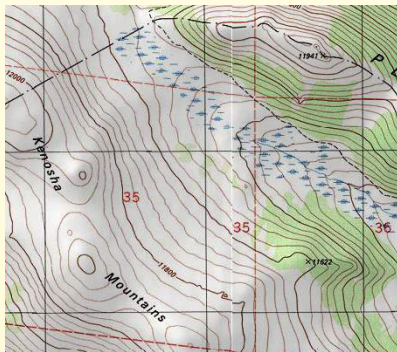
the shapes are

- the cavities of upper and lower level sets
- the interior regions of level lines.

A SELF-DUAL TOPOGRAPHIC TREE-BASED REPRESENTATION



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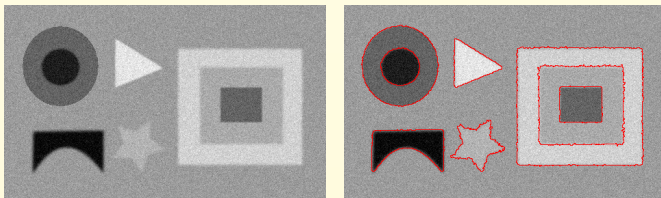
excerpt

SOME APPLICATIONS



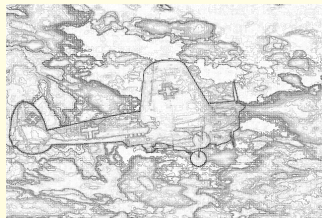
grain filter

SOME APPLICATIONS



object detection

SOME APPLICATIONS



input $\rightsquigarrow$ contour saliency



extinction $\rightsquigarrow$ (hierarchical) segmentation

SOME APPLICATIONS

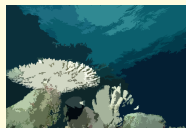
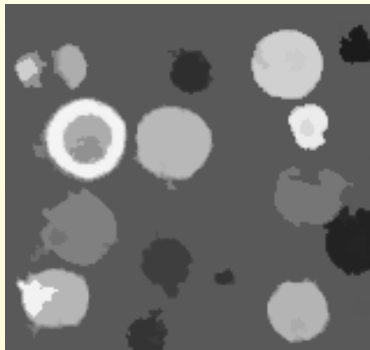
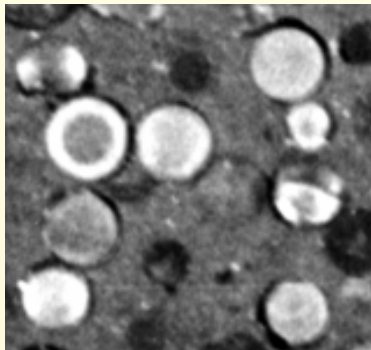


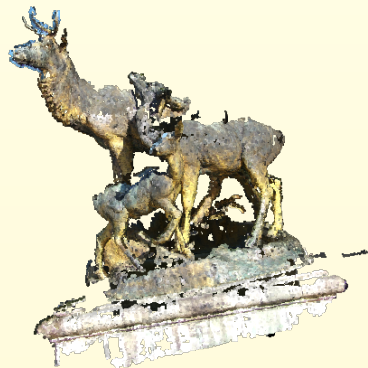
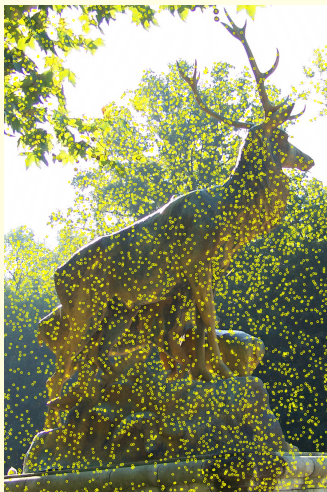
image simplification

SOME APPLICATIONS



morphological shapings

SOME APPLICATIONS



local feature detection

DEALING WITH DUAL CONNECTIVITIES

whatever a connectivity c (with $-c$ denoting its “dual”), and a relation $\mathcal{R}$

from a set of components, we can have a set of shapes:

$$\mathcal{T}_{(\mathcal{R},c)} = \{ \Gamma \in \mathcal{CC}_c([u \mathcal{R} \lambda]) \}_{\lambda} \longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{(\mathcal{R},c)}(u) = \{ \text{Sat}_{-c}(\Gamma); \Gamma \in \mathcal{T}_{(\mathcal{R},c)}(u) \}$$

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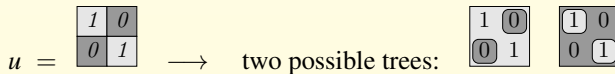
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For instance:

$$\mathfrak{S}_{(<,c_4)}(\mathbb{L}u) = \mathfrak{S}_{(\leq,c_8)}(u)$$

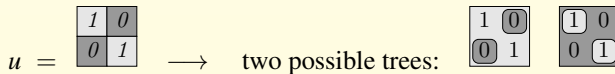
CONSEQUENCES 1/2

We have an arbitrary choice between $\mathfrak{S}_{(<, c_\alpha)}(u)$ and $\mathfrak{S}_{(>, c_\alpha)}(u)$:

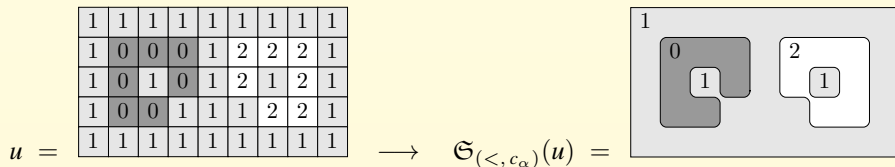


CONSEQUENCES 1/2

We have an arbitrary choice between $\mathfrak{S}_{(<, c_\alpha)}(u)$ and $\mathfrak{S}_{(>, c_\alpha)}(u)$:



When choosing $\mathfrak{S}_{(<, c_\alpha)}(u)$, lower and upper shapes are resp. c_α and c_β :



If u is continuous (or discrete with some continuity property[†]):

the different types of shapes do **not** have the same topology!

for instance:

in $\mathfrak{S}_{(<, c_\alpha)}(u)$, lower shapes are open sets v. upper shapes are closed sets.

- [†] T. Géraud, E. Carlinet, S. Crozet, L. Najman. *A quasi-linear algorithm to compute the tree of shapes of nD images*. In Proc. of the 11th Intl. Symp. on Mathematical Morphology (ISMM), 2013.
- L. Najman, T. Géraud. *Discrete set-valued continuity and interpolation*. In Proc. of the 11th Intl. Symp. on Mathematical Morphology (ISMM), 2013.

we want:

A PURELY SELF-DUAL TREE

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that starts with:

A FIRST REQUIREMENT

a single connectivity relation for both lower and upper shapes

DUMMY EXAMPLES

with c_4 for both types of shapes (so Sat_{c_8}), we have those two shapes:

2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	0	0	0	2
2	0	1	2	0	2
2	2	0	0	2	2
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with c_8 for both types of shapes (so Sat_{c_4}), we have those two shapes:

1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	2	0	2	0	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1

1	1	1	1	1	1
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2	2	0	0	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2

2	2	2	2	2	2
2	2	0	0	0	2
2	0	1	2	0	2
2	2	0	0	2	2
2	2	2	2	2	2

with c_8 for both types of shapes (so Sat_{c_4}), we have those two shapes:

1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	2	0	2	0	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1

1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	2	0	2	0	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1

1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	2	0	2	0	1
1	1	2	0	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1

in both cases, we do **not** have: $S_1 \cap S_2 \neq \emptyset \Rightarrow (S_1 \subset S_2 \text{ or } S_2 \subset S_1)$

$\rightsquigarrow$ the set of shapes is **not** a tree / it is a lattice since $(\mathfrak{S}_c, \subset)$ is a poset

The SLIDE!

given any gray-level image u

- $\mathfrak{S}_c(u)$ is a lattice
- taking $c = c_\alpha$ or $c = c_\beta$ is equivalent when an image is *well-composed* (...)
- we can have an interpolation $\mathcal{I}(u)$ of u that is a well-composed image
- we expect $\mathfrak{S}_{c_\alpha}(\mathcal{I}(u))$ to be a perfectly self-dual tree of shapes

under constraints

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WHAT'S UP NOW...

- extend the notion of “well-composedness” to n D images on a cubical grid

- prove that:

if a gray-level n D image v is WC then $\mathfrak{S}_c(v)$ is a tree

- study how to make a 2D image well-composed, that is:

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2D WELL-COMPOSED (WC) SETS (LATECKI, CVIU, 1995)

WCNESS FOR 2D SETS

Definitions:

- a set is weakly well-composed if any 8-component of this set is a 4-component
- a set is well-composed if both this set and its complement are weakly WC

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LOCAL CHARACTERIZATION

- a set X is locally 4-connected if $\forall p \in X, \mathcal{N}_8(p) \cap X$ is 4-connected
- X is locally 4-connected $\Leftrightarrow X$ is well-composed

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CRITICAL CONFIGURATIONS

It is equivalent to:

a set is WC if the configurations



and



do not appear

EXTENSION TO GRAY-LEVELS

A gray-level image u is well-composed if any set $[u \geq \lambda]$ is well-composed.

Example of an image (left) whose interpolation (right) is well-composed:

3	2
1	8

3 [•]	2	2 [•]
2	2	5
1 [•]	4	8 [•]

$\rightsquigarrow$ for every blocks

a	d
c	b

 we should have: $\text{intvl}(a, b) \cap \text{intvl}(c, d) \neq \emptyset$
where $\text{intvl}(v, w) = [\min(v, w), \max(v, w)]$

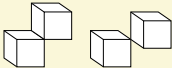
DEFINITION

a set X is well-composed if ∂X is a 2D manifold *in the continuous analog*

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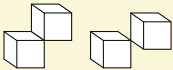
LOGICAL EQUIVALENCES

- the configurations  do not appear in X
- every component of ∂X is a simple closed surface

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ABOUT JORDAN-BOUWER THEOREM

if X is WC, then, $\forall S \in \mathcal{CC}(\partial X)$, $\mathbb{R}^3 \setminus S$ has precisely 2 connected components of which S is the common boundary

2, 3, ... then n

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It is equivalent to:

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- ∂X is a discrete n -surface *in the cellular complex*
- the restriction of X to any hyperplane of $\mathbb{Z}^n$ is well-composed (in $\mathbb{Z}^{n-1}$)
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SAME EXTENSION TO GRAY-LEVELS

A gray-level n D image u is well-composed if any set $[u \geq \lambda]$ is well-composed.

THE RETURN OF THE TREE OF SHAPES

if a gray-level n D image u is well-composed, then $\mathfrak{S}(u)$ is a tree

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it is a sufficient condition (not a necessary one):

with $u =$

1	1	1	1
1	0	2	1
1	2	0	1
1	1	1	1

, $\mathfrak{S}(u)$ is a tree, while u is not well-composed.

SKETCH OF THE PROOF

With $\mathfrak{T}(u) = \mathcal{T}_{<}(u) \cup \mathcal{T}_{\geq}(u)$, consider $A \in \mathfrak{T}(u)$ and $B \in \mathfrak{T}(u)$.

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- otherwise $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$

- ▶ case “ A and B with the same type” (e.g., $A \in \mathcal{CC}([u < \lambda])$ and $B \in \mathcal{CC}([u < \mu])$):
since $A \cap B \neq \emptyset$, we have either $A \subseteq B$ or $B \subseteq A$
since Sat is increasing, $\text{Sat}(A)$ and $\text{Sat}(B)$ are nested
- ▶ case “ A and B with different types” (e.g., $A \in \mathcal{CC}([u \geq \lambda])$ and $B \in \mathcal{CC}([u < \mu])$):
with $x \in A \cap B$, $\lambda \leq u(x) < \mu \Rightarrow \lambda < \mu$
let $\Delta B = \{ q \in \mathcal{N}_{c_{2n}}(p) \mid p \in B, q \notin B \}$, so we have $\Delta B \subseteq [u \geq \mu] \subseteq [u \geq \lambda]$
 $\rightsquigarrow$ cont'd next slide

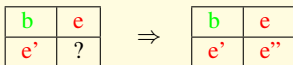
SKETCH OF THE PROOF

we can split $\Delta B = E \cup C$ where

- ▶ C is the part of ΔB included in cavities of B
- ▶ E is the other part ($\approx E$ is the “external” boundary of B w.r.t. c_{2n})

we have:

unicoherency and **well-composedness** $\Rightarrow E$ is a connected component



which is crucial for the following!

look there ↓

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- ▶ $\text{Sat}(\Delta B) = \text{Sat}(E)$
- ▶ a component $F \in \mathcal{CC}([u \geq \lambda])$ exists such as $E \subseteq F \leftarrow$ here!

so:

- ▶ either $F \cap A = \emptyset$ then $A \subseteq \text{Sat}(B)$ so $\text{Sat}(A) \subseteq \text{Sat}(B)$
- ▶ or $F \cap A \neq \emptyset$ then $F \subseteq A$ thus
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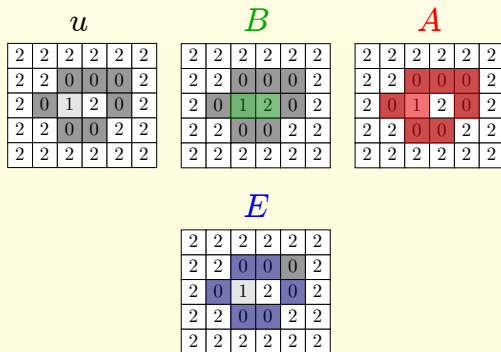
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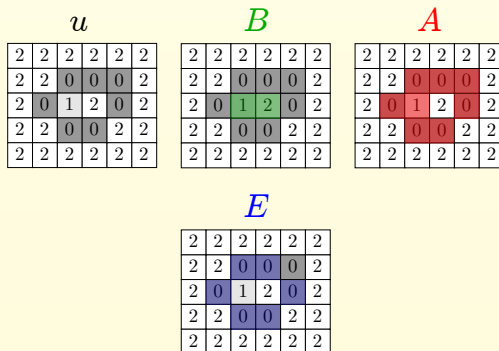
KEY-POINT OF THE PROOF

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yet

- E may **not** be a connected component if the image is not WC
- so we may **not** have a component $F \in \mathfrak{T}$ such as B is in a cavity of F
- here the candidate is A and we don't have $\text{Sat}(B) \subseteq \text{Sat}(A)$

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we thus have to find $\mathfrak{I} \dots$ let's start with the 2D case!

MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: THE CONSTRAINTS (1/2)

$$u = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a & d \\ \hline c & b \\ \hline \end{array} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{I}_{2D} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline a & ? & d \\ \hline ? & ? & ? \\ \hline c & ? & b \\ \hline \end{array}$$

MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: THE CONSTRAINTS (1/2)

$$u = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a & d \\ \hline c & b \\ \hline \end{array} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{I}_{2D} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline a & ad & d \\ \hline ac & m & bd \\ \hline c & bc & b \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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Constraints:

- determinism

- ▶ an increasing function f exists such as $ad = f(a, d)$, $ac = f(a, c)$, and so on
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- ▶ $f(v, w) = f(w, v)$
- ▶ $g(a, b, c, d) = g(a, b, d, c)$, and the other symmetries
- ▶ $g(a, b, c, d) = g(c, d, b, a)$, and the other rotations

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- no new extremum
 - ▶ $f(v, w) \in \text{intvl}(v, w)$
 - ▶ $m \in \text{intvl}(ac, bd)$ and $m \in \text{intvl}(ad, bc)$

MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: THE CONSTRAINTS (2/2)

$$u = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline a & d \\ \hline c & b \\ \hline \end{array} \longrightarrow \mathfrak{I}_{2D} = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|} \hline a & ad & d \\ \hline ac & m & bd \\ \hline c & bc & b \\ \hline \end{array}$$

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Other constraints:

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 - ▶ $\text{intvl}(a, m) \cap \text{intvl}(ac, ad) \neq \emptyset$ (top left)
 - ▶ likewise for the 3 other 2×2 parts

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- extra and optional

- ▶ h exists such as $g(a, b, c, d) = h(f(a, c), f(b, d)) = h(f(a, d), f(b, c))$
- ▶ so we have $h(\mathbb{C}_v, \mathbb{C}_w) = \mathbb{C}h(v, w)$
- ▶ and $h(v, w) = h(w, v) \in \text{intvl}(v, w)$

MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: FIRST ATTEMPTS

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Nota bene: if f is bisymmetrical, i.e., $f(f(a, c), f(b, d)) = f(f(a, d), f(b, c))$ then g is just applying f twice (like in the bilinear interpolation)

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Idea #1: f is either min or max

- bisymmetrical
- satisfy all constraints except self-duality, since $\min(\mathbb{C}_v, \mathbb{C}_w) = \mathbb{C}_{\max(v, w)}$

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Idea #2: f is a mean (i.e., $\min \leq f \leq \max$, $f \neq \min$, $f \neq \max$, $f(v, w) = f(w, v)$, f increasing)

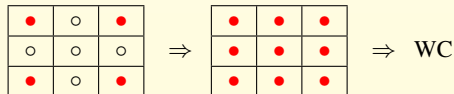
- some well-known bisymmetrical means: $2xy/(x+y)$, $(x+y)/2$, $\sqrt{xy}$, $\sqrt{(x^2+y^2)/2}$
- yet they fail with self-duality and/or WCness!

MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: AN HOW-TO

- consider a 3×3 part of $\mathcal{I}(u)$ and a threshold set X
- notation: $\bullet \in X$, $\bullet \in \mathbb{C}X$, and $\circ$ when we do not know
- it yields to 4 cases (modulo symmetries, rotations, and $\mathbb{C}$ ation)
- using only the “no new extremum” constraint, we have:

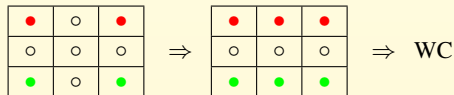
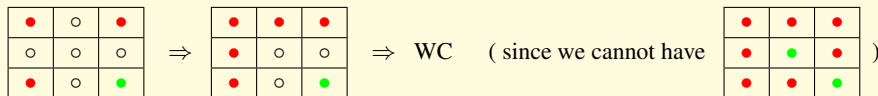
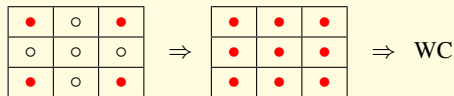
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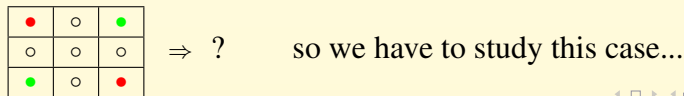
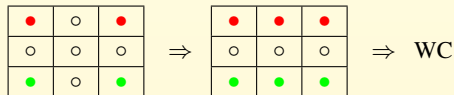
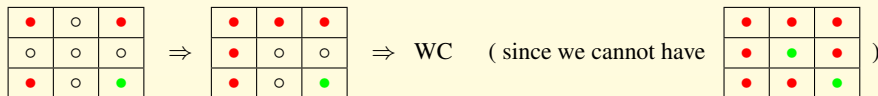
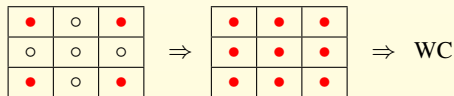
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MAKING A 2D IMAGE WC: AN HOW-TO

- consider a 3×3 part of $\mathcal{I}(u)$ and a threshold set X
- notation: $\bullet \in X$, $\bullet \in \complement X$, and $\circ$ when we do not know
- it yields to 4 cases (modulo symmetries, rotations, and $\complement$ ation)
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THE SADDLE-POINT CASE

a	ad	d
ac	m	bd
c	bc	b

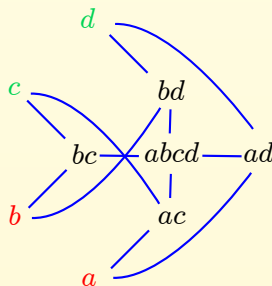
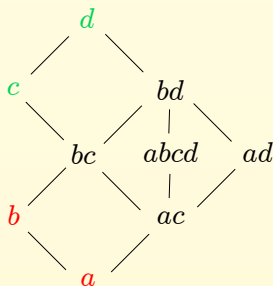
 $\rightsquigarrow$

●	○	●
○	○	○
●	○	●

let us assume that $a < b < c < d$, *nota bene*: below $abcd = m$

just remark that $v < w \Rightarrow v < vw < w$ (the “no new extr.” constraint)

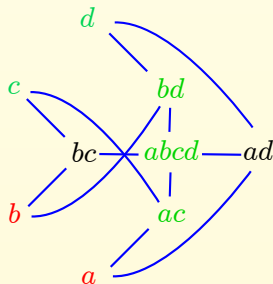
so we have the following Hasse diagram (left) and depicted with 4-adjacencies (right):



THE SADDLE-POINT CASE

Assume that the point of value ac is in X (so depicted in green)

we thus have:



so:

a	ad	d
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$\rightsquigarrow$

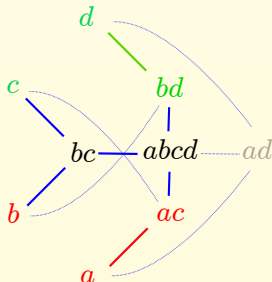
●	○	●
●	●	●
●	○	●

$\Rightarrow$ WC

The same goes when assuming that the point of value bd is in $\mathbb{C}X$ (red).

THE SADDLE-POINT CASE

The remaining case is therefore:



so:

a	ad	d
ac	m	bd
c	bc	b

$\rightsquigarrow$

●	○	●
●	●	●
●	●	●

$\Rightarrow$

WC iff $m = bc$ i.e., iff $g(a, b, c, d) = f(b, c)$

THE CONCLUSION FOR 2D

in the morphology setting, we want an operator so:

$$(WC \text{ iff } op(\{a, b, c, d\}) = op(\{b, c\})) \Rightarrow op \text{ is } \underline{a} \text{ median}$$

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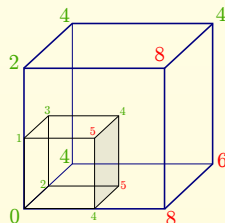
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...what about in 3D?

WHAT ABOUT 3D?

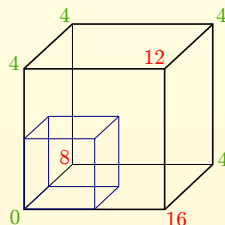
consider $X = [u \leq 4]$ with $u =$

one median subdivision with a critical configuration, so: $\mathfrak{J}_{\text{med}}^{3D} \not\Rightarrow \text{WC}$



consider $X = [u' \leq 4]$ with $u' =$

a first subdivision gives the blue cube above, so: $\mathfrak{J}_{\text{med}}^{3D} \circ \mathfrak{J}_{\text{med}}^{3D} \not\Rightarrow \text{WC}$



THE CONCLUSION FOR 3D AND n D

CONJECTURE

for $n > 2$

there is no self-dual n D interpolation *operator* (i.e., writable without “if”) that makes well-composed an gray-level image defined on $\mathbb{Z}^n$

whatever the number of subdivisions of the space

CONCLUSION (1/2)

- we can get rid of topological paradoxes thanks to
 - ▶ a single connectivity relationship *and/or* self-duality
 - ▶ the notion of well-composedness of n D gray-level images
 - ▶ the how-to in 2D: a local interpolation with the median operator
- eventually we have

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the self-duality of threshold sets $\Rightarrow$ a unique connectivity relationship

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What we have done:

we have explored the links between the notion of well-composedness
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we have some new (interesting?) results and proofs

QUASI-LINEAR ALGORITHM

A quasi-linear algorithm to compute the tree of shapes of nD images.

T. Géraud, E. Carlinet, S. Crozet, and L. Najman.

ISMM, 2013.

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A DISCRETE **yet** CONTINUOUS REPRESENTATION

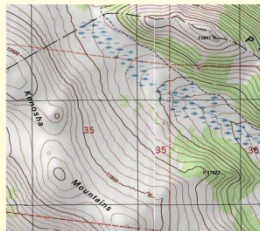
Discrete set-valued continuity and interpolation.

L. Najman and T. Géraud.

ISMM, 2013.

remember that slide:

A SELF-DUAL TOPOGRAPHIC TREE-BASED REPRESENTATION



excerpt

LEFT AS AN EXERCISE TO THE READER...

draw the level lines of respective levels 1 and 3 for this image:

6	6	6	6	6
6	4	4	2	6
6	4	0	4	6
6	0	4	4	6
6	6	6	6	6

so what!?

some “past-the-end” slides

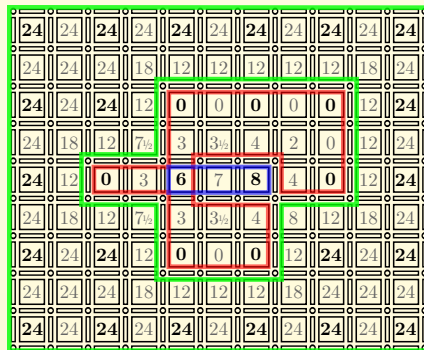
TO BE INTERPOLATED

u

24	24	24	24	24	24
24	24	0	0	0	24
24	0	6	8	0	24
24	24	0	0	24	24
24	24	24	24	24	24

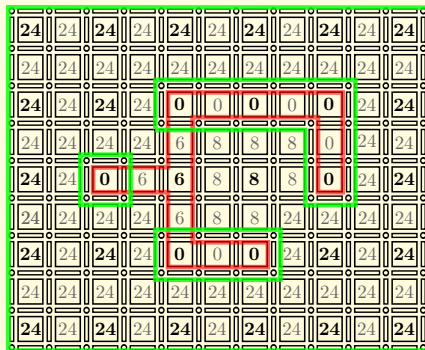
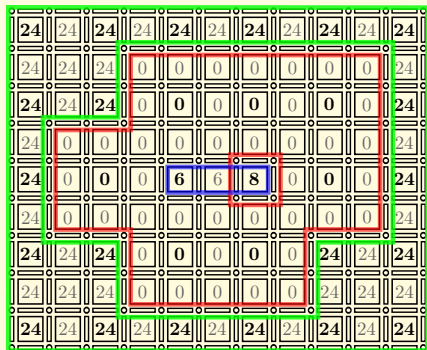
MEAN INTERPOLATION

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{mean}}(u) \rightsquigarrow \text{poset}(\mathfrak{S}_c(u), \subset)$$



DUAL INTERPOLATIONS

$$\mathcal{I}_{\min}(u) \rightsquigarrow \mathfrak{S}_{(>, c_\alpha)}(u) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{I}_{\max}(u) \rightsquigarrow \mathfrak{S}_{(<, c_\alpha)}(u)$$



SELF-DUAL INTERPOLATION

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{med}}(u) \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{S}(u)$$

