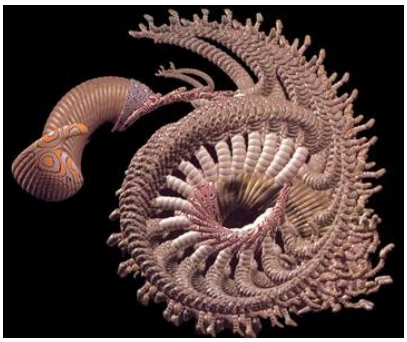
Raster Images and Displays

Outline

- Overview
- Example Applications

What is an image?



An image is

For our purposes, an image is:

- A 2D distribution of gray levels or intensity, colors, or opacities
- A function defined on a 2D plane with samples at regular points (almost always a rectilinear grid)

To do graphics, we must:

- **Represent images** – encode them numerically
- **Display images** – realize them as actual intensity distributions

Operating principle: humans are trichromatic

- Match any color with blend of 3

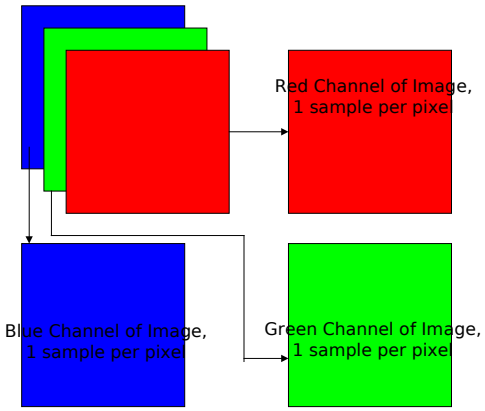
Represent images

Represent images

Common image types include:

- 1 sample per point (B&W or Grayscale)
- 3 samples per point (Red, Green, Blue)
- 4 samples per point (Red, Green, Blue, and "Alpha", a.k.a. Opacity)
- 5 samples per point (add "Depth")

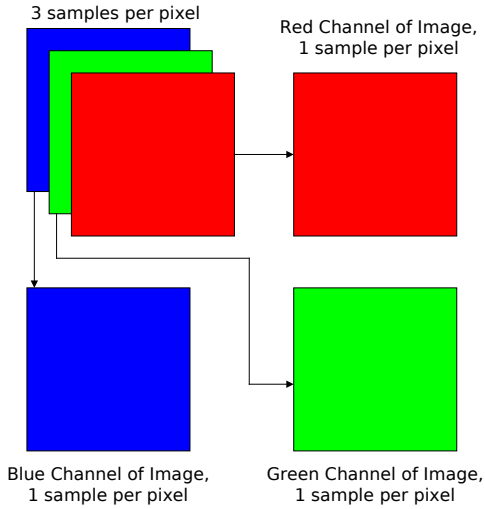
3 samples per pixel, *RGB makes good primaries*



Channels

Each of these planes is a "channel".

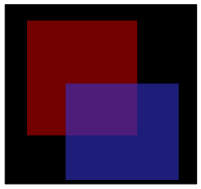
The red channel of a 3 sample per pixel image is a 1 sample per pixel image, consisting of just the red values from the original image.



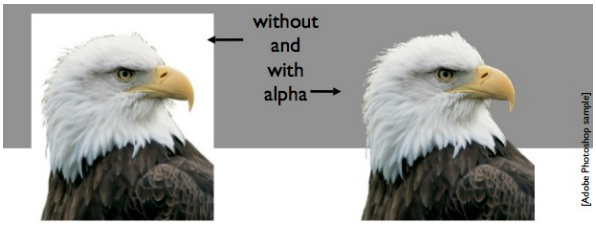
The Alpha Channel

Adding opacity information to pixels

- In addition to R, G, B channels of an image, add a fourth channel, called α
- Alpha: [0, 1]
- Useful for blending images
  - image with higher alpha value "shows through" more



(Both squares have α=0.6)



Display images

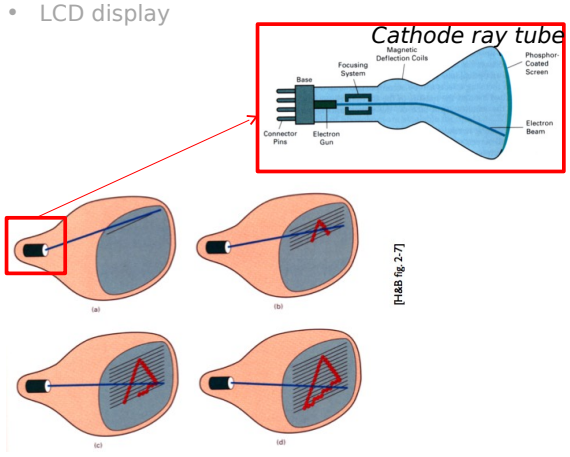
Representative display technologies

Computer Displays
- Raster CRT display
- LCD display

Printers
- Laser printer
- Inkjet printer

Representative display technologies

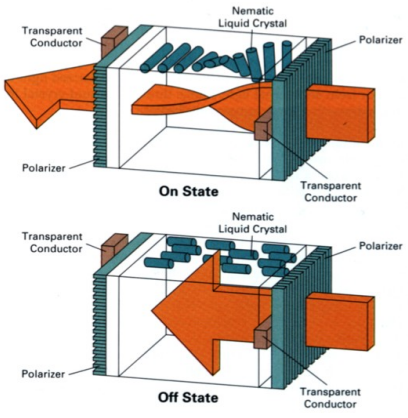
Computer Displays
- Raster CRT display
- LCD display



[H&B fig. 2-7]

Representative display technologies

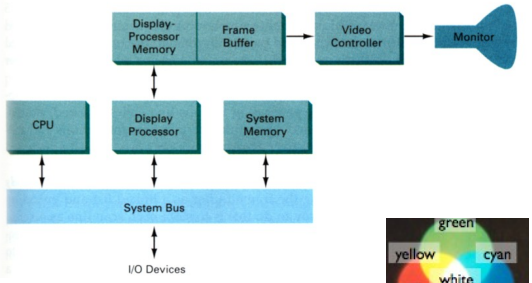
Computer Displays
- Raster CRT display
- LCD display



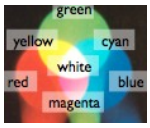
[H&B fig. 2-16]

Raster display system

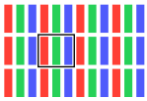
- Screen image defined by a 2D array in RAM
- The memory area that maps to the screen is called the *frame buffer.*



- CRT: dot pattern to produce finely interleaved color images



- LCD: interleaved RGB pixels.



But want to display images that do not fit the hardware (e.g., too big?)

Example Applications

Examples

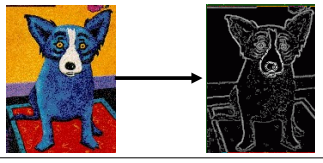
Give an idea of what is done with image processing

- Image enhancement
  - scientific filtering
  - forensic science
- Multipart composition
- Computer vision

An Application of the Edge-Detection Filtering Technique

Some filtering techniques are designed to make features in an image more apparent

- Done by using a filter that accentuates changes above certain threshold
- Make specific features of an image stand out
- Can even calculate a new image based on some function that takes an image to another image
- e.g., define an image by the magnitude of change in the original image at each point.
  - Thus, higher-valued pixels in new image are places where original image was changing rapidly

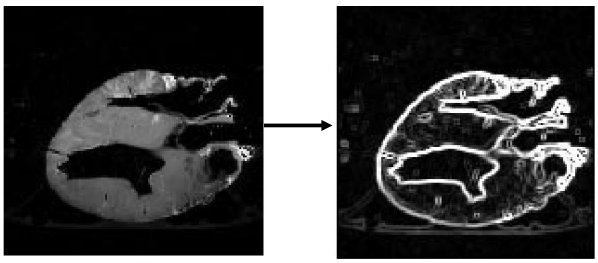


Just an illustration, not an MRI: see the next slide

MRI Image Enhancement

Take slice from MRI scan of canine heart, and find boundaries between types of tissue

- Image with gray levels representing tissue density
- Using filter from previous slide, compute new image. Again, new image brighter where MRI image gray values changing faster
- Different densities of different types of matter will show up with bright boundaries in between.



Original MRI Image of a Dog Heart

Edge Detection Image

Forensic Science Image Enhancement

Image enhancement has been used by forensic scientists for years to pull information from seemingly hopeless images.

- We have a security camera video of the back of a car that was used in a robbery
- The image is too dark and noisy for the police to pull a license number

Image processing like this in the media a lot in the last few years

- These techniques have been used to find small features in satellite images
- Image processing for forensic science is even spotlighted in popular entertainment, such as the TV show CSI: Crime Scene Investigation

Multipart Composition

Image composition is popular in art world, as well as in tabloid news

- Takes parts of several images and creates single image. Hard part is making all images fit together naturally
- Artists can use it to create amazing collages and multi-layered effects
- Tabloid newspaper artists can use it to create “News Photos” of things that never happened

Multipart Composition

- Some famous examples of faked photos include:

Reuters photo of Beirut:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adnan_Hajj_photographs_controversy

Chinese press photo of Tibet railway (2008)

Tom Hanks and JFK

Other things you can do with an image

- **Overview**
- **Example Applications**
- Jaggies & Aliasing
- Sampling & Duals
- Convolution
- Filtering
- Scaling
- Reconstruction
- Scaling, continued
- Implementation