

# Thinking in Frequency

Computer Vision  
University of Illinois

Derek Hoiem



# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0


$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

	0	10							

$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

	0	10	20						

$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	0	10	20	30					

$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

	0	10	20	30	30				

$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering

$$g[\cdot, \cdot] \frac{1}{9}$$

1	1	1
1	1	1
1	1	1

$f[\cdot, \cdot]$

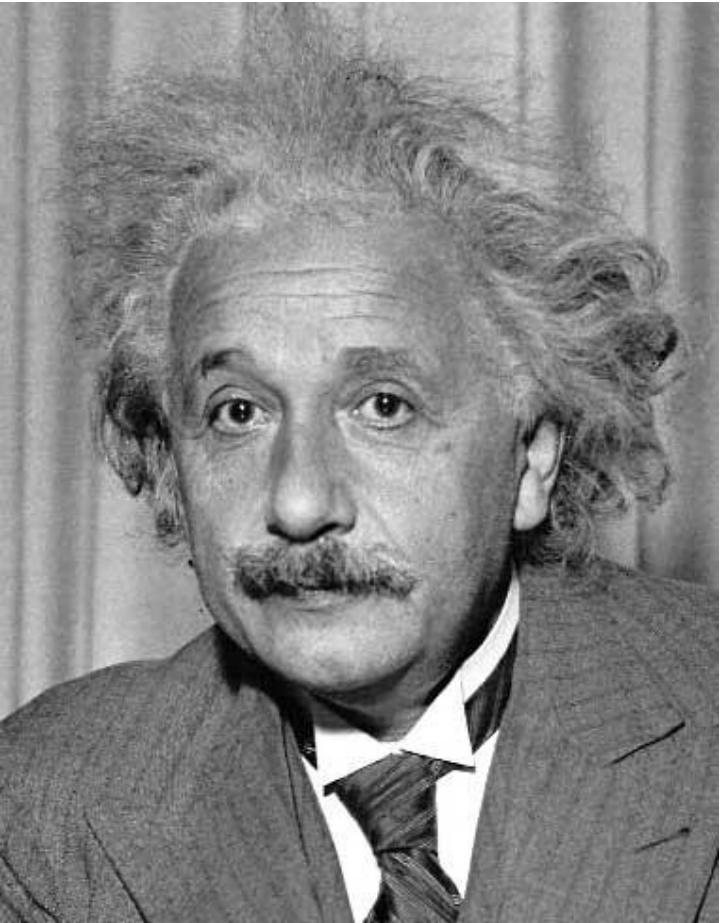
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	0	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	90	90	90	90	90	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

$h[\cdot, \cdot]$

	0	10	20	30	30	30	20	10	
	0	20	40	60	60	60	40	20	
	0	30	60	90	90	90	60	30	
	0	30	50	80	80	90	60	30	
	0	30	50	80	80	90	60	30	
	0	20	30	50	50	60	40	20	
	10	20	30	30	30	30	20	10	
	10	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	

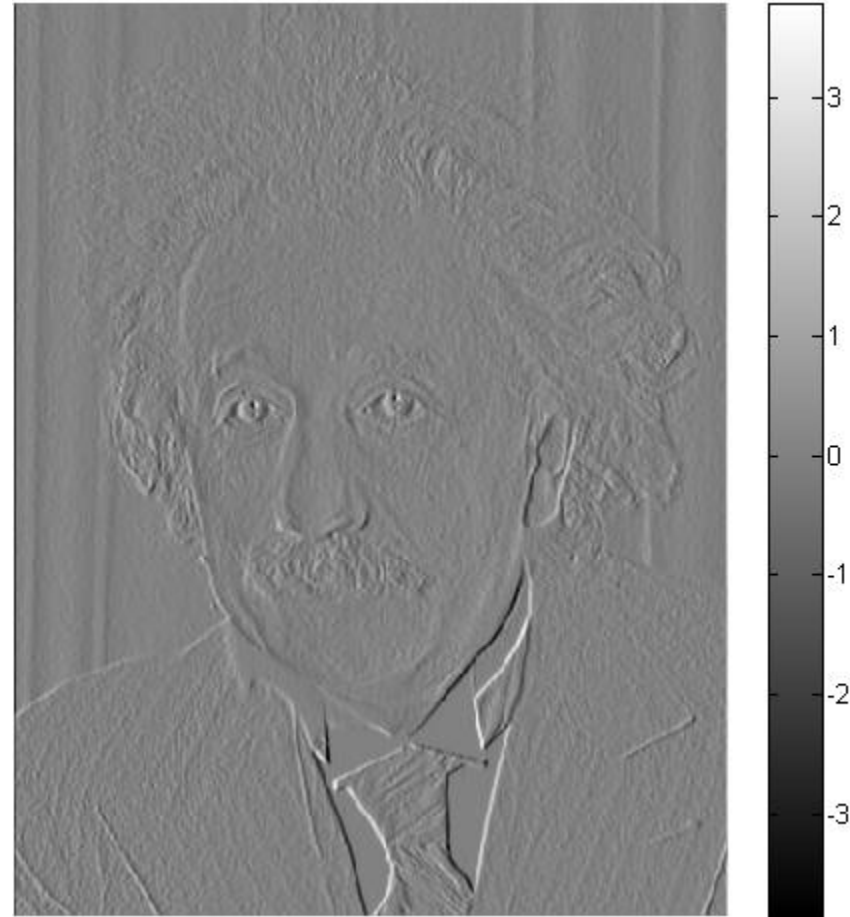
$$h[m, n] = \sum_{k, l} g[k, l] f[m+k, n+l]$$

# Review: image filtering in spatial domain



1	0	-1
2	0	-2
1	0	-1

Sobel



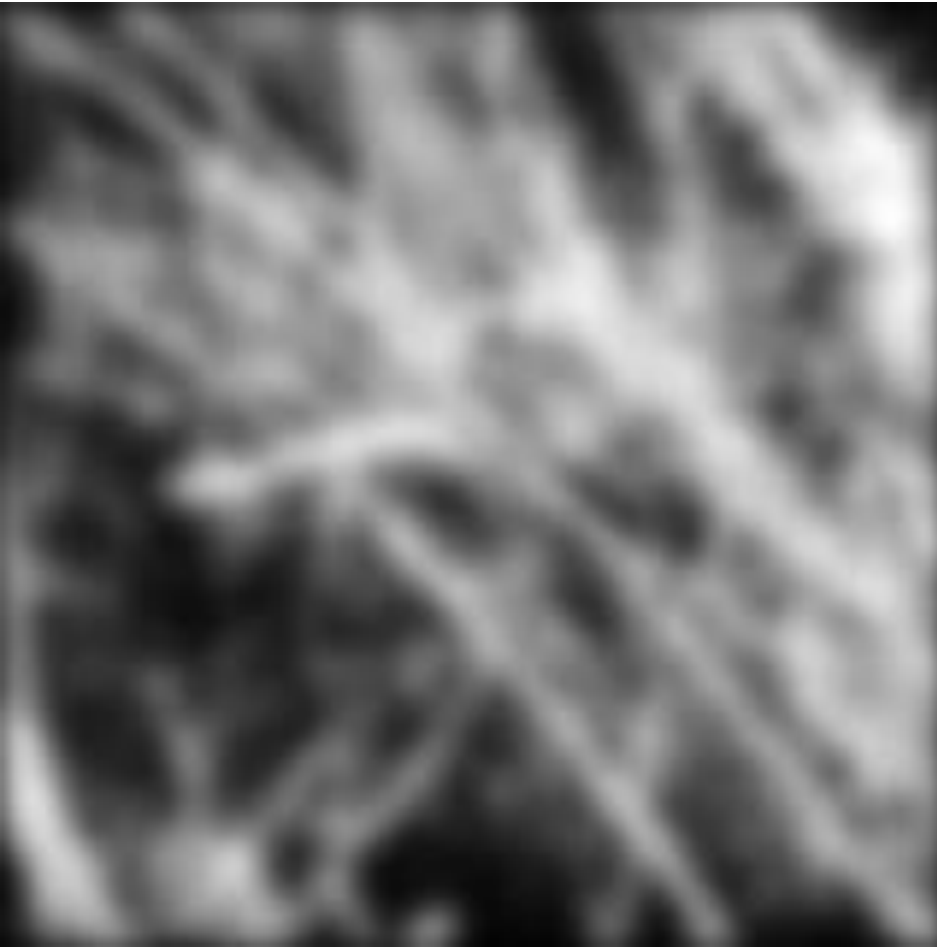


# Today's Class

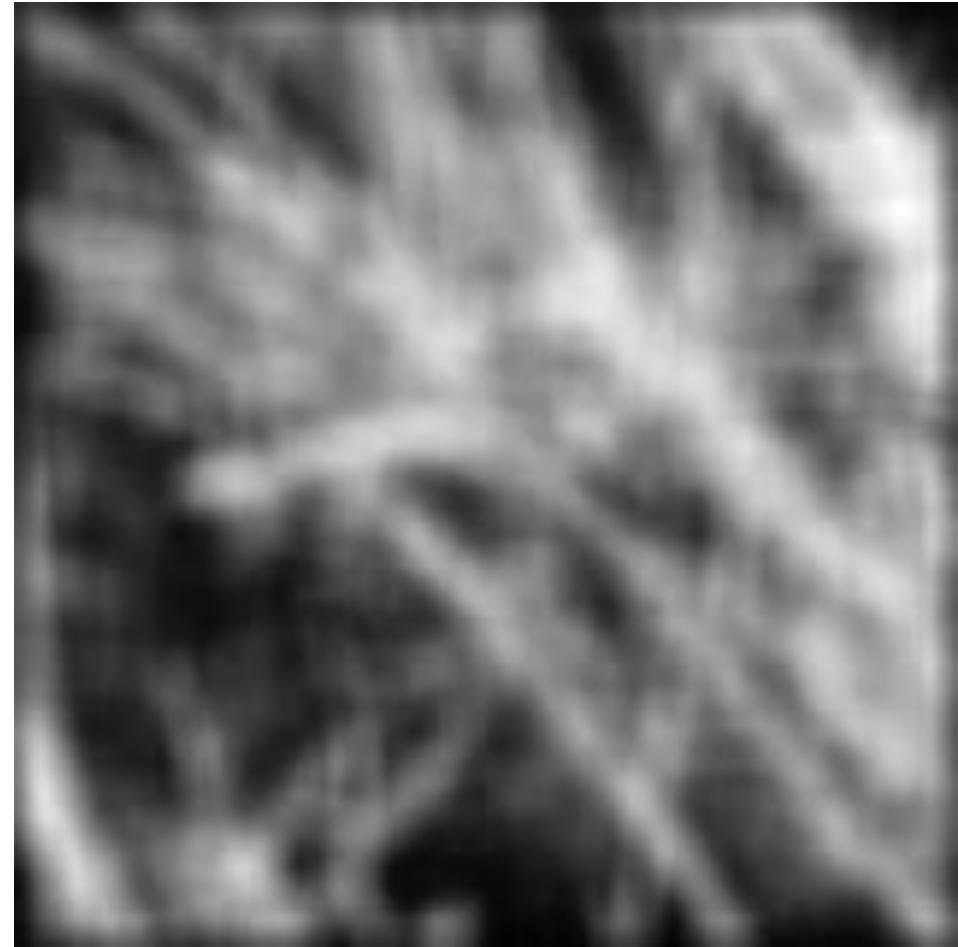
- Fourier transform and frequency domain
  - Frequency view of filtering
  - Sampling

# Why does the Gaussian give a nice smooth image, but the square filter give edgy artifacts?

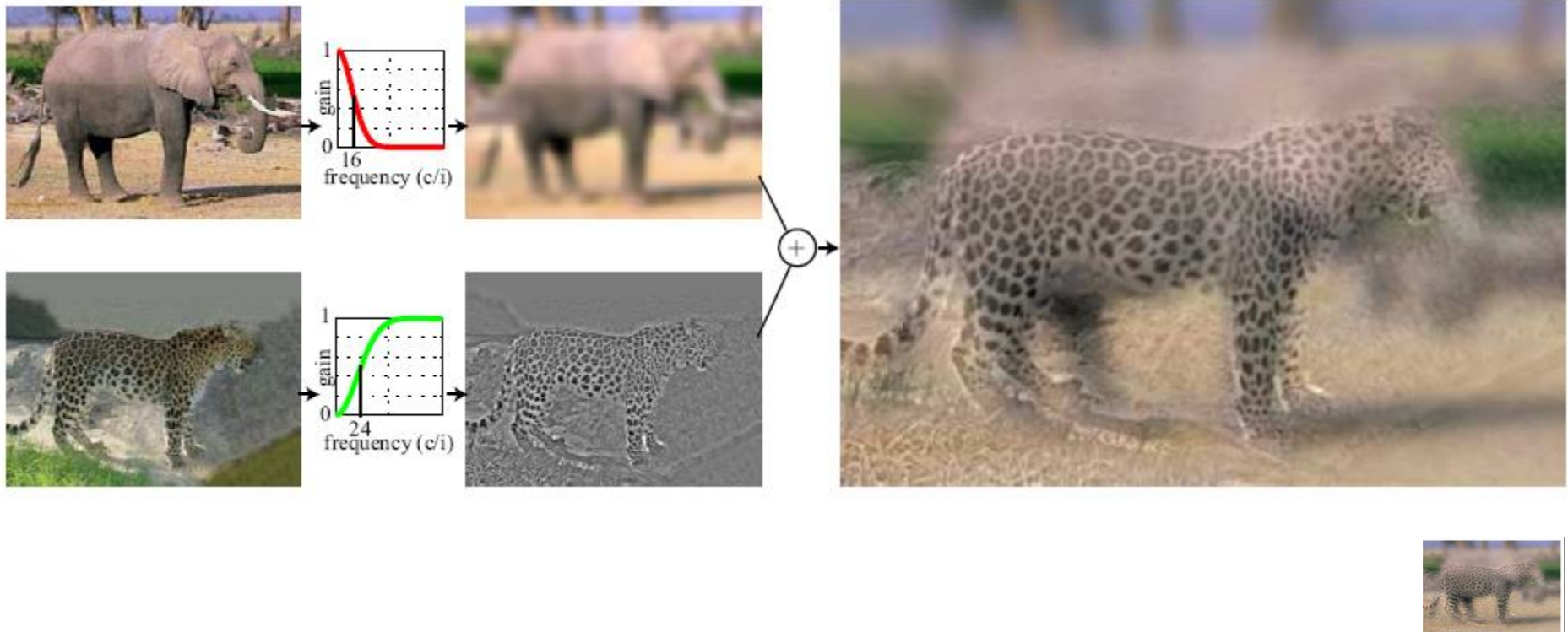
Gaussian



Box filter

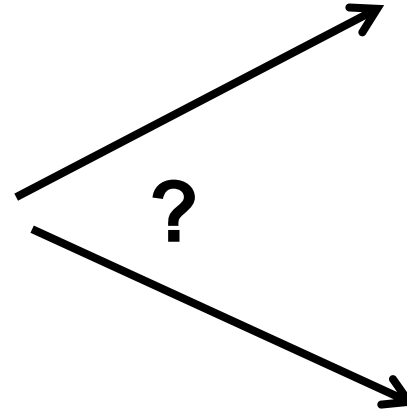


# Hybrid Images

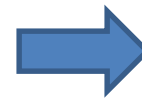


- A. Oliva, A. Torralba, P.G. Schyns, [“Hybrid Images,”](#) SIGGRAPH 2006

# Why do we get different, distance-dependent interpretations of hybrid images?



# Why does a lower resolution image still make sense to us? What do we lose?



Thinking in terms of frequency

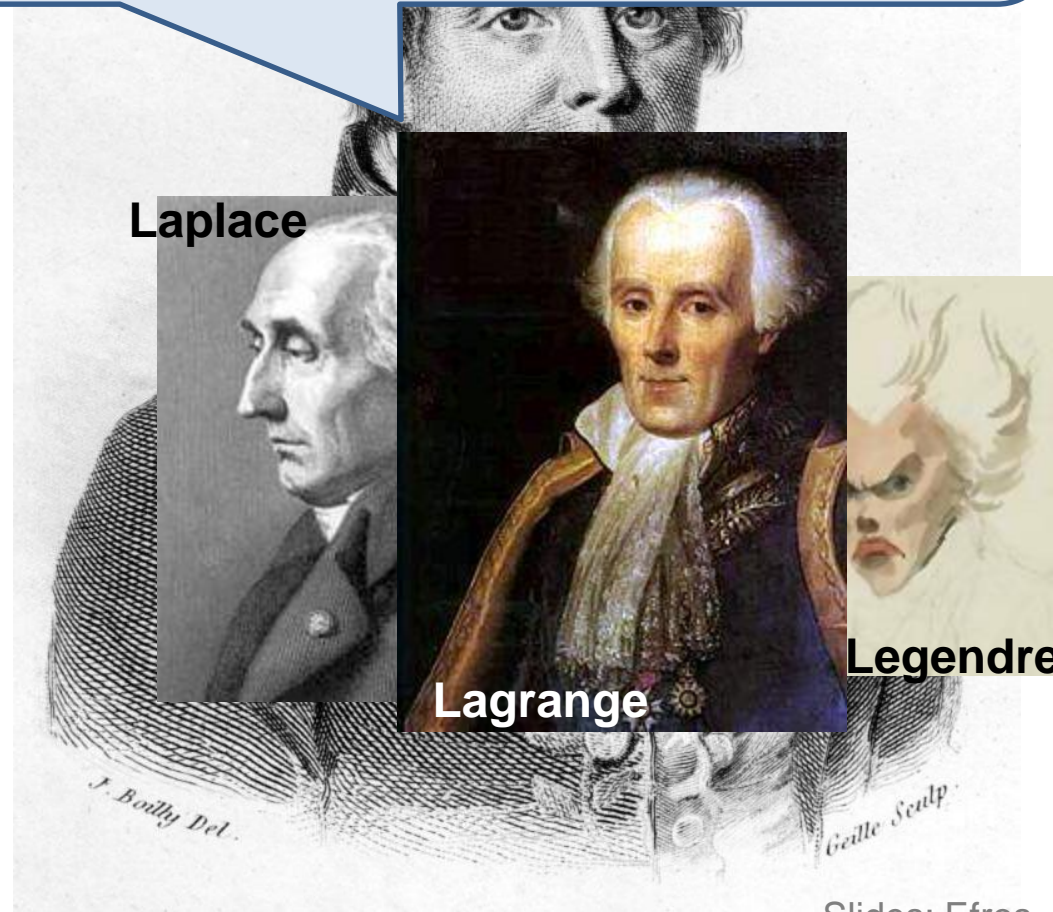
# Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (1768-1830)

had crazy idea (1807):

*Any univariate function can be rewritten as a weighted sum of sines and cosines of different frequencies.*

*...the manner in which the author arrives at these equations is not exempt of difficulties and...his analysis to integrate them still leaves something to be desired on the score of generality and even rigour.*

- Don't believe it?
  - Neither did Lagrange, Laplace, Poisson and other big wigs
  - Not translated into English until 1878!
- But it's (mostly) true!
  - called Fourier Series
  - there are some subtle restrictions

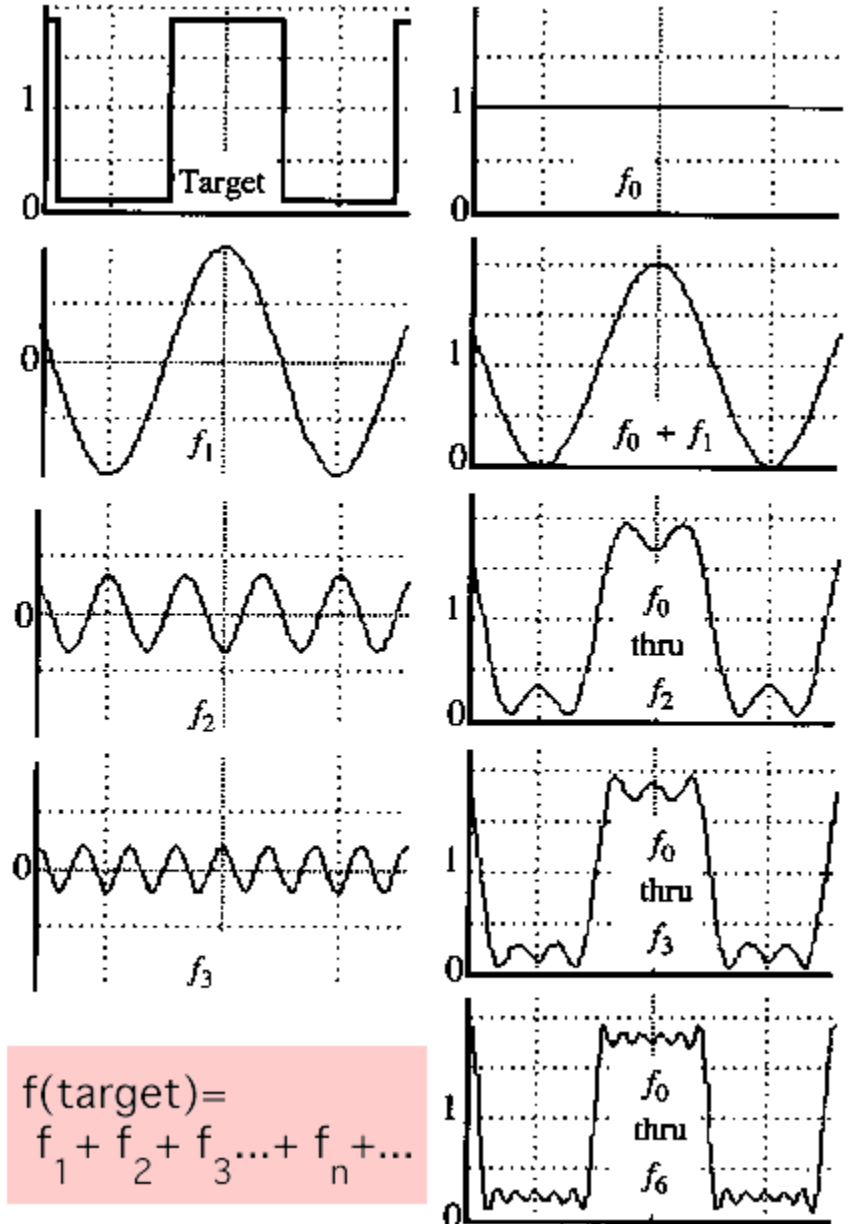


# A sum of sines

Our building block:

$$A \sin(\omega x + \phi)$$

Add enough of them to get any signal  $f(x)$  you want!

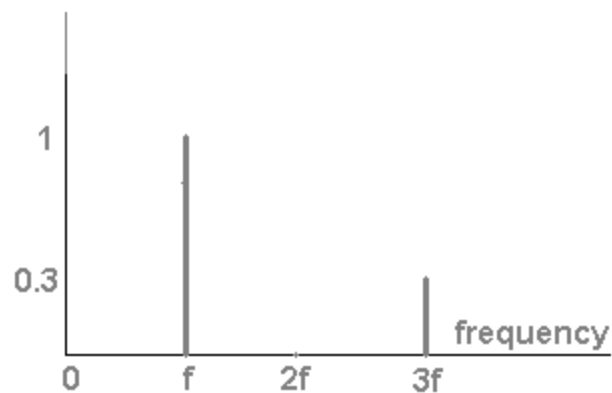
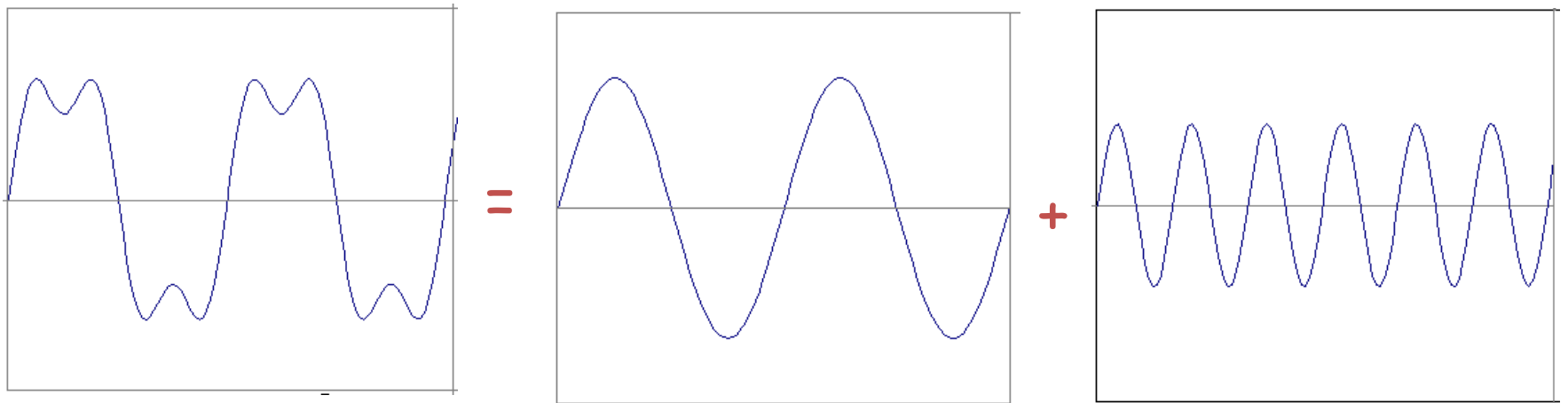


$$f(\text{target}) = f_1 + f_2 + f_3 + \dots + f_n + \dots$$

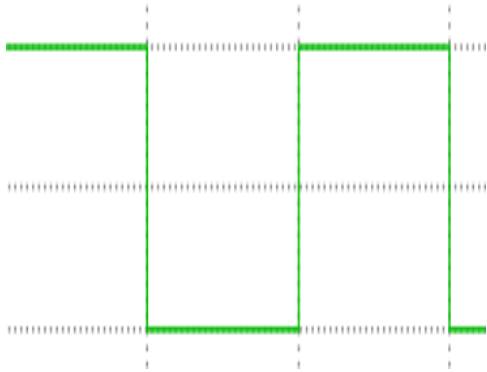


# Frequency Spectra

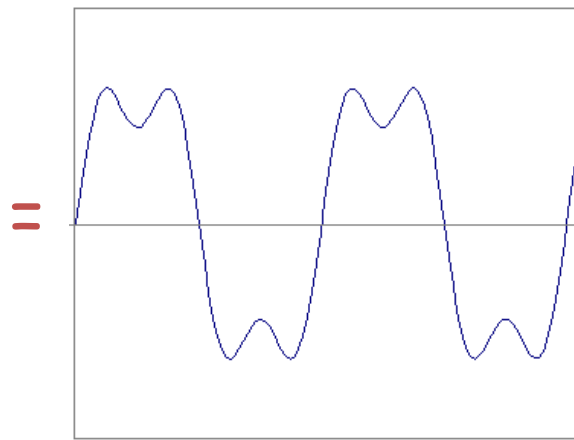
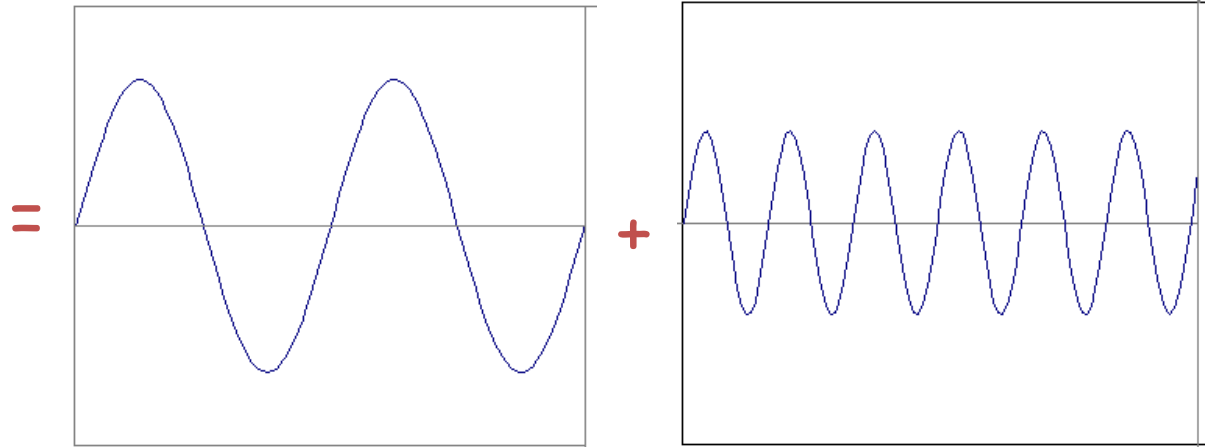
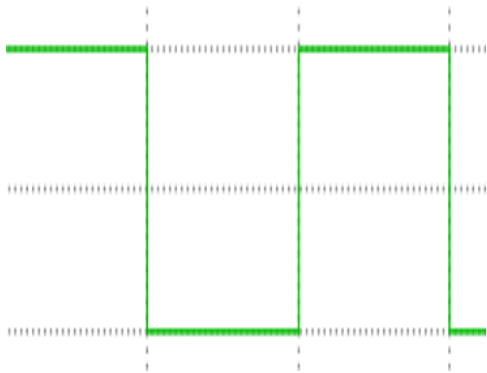
- example :  $g(t) = \sin(2\pi f t) + (1/3)\sin(2\pi(3f) t)$



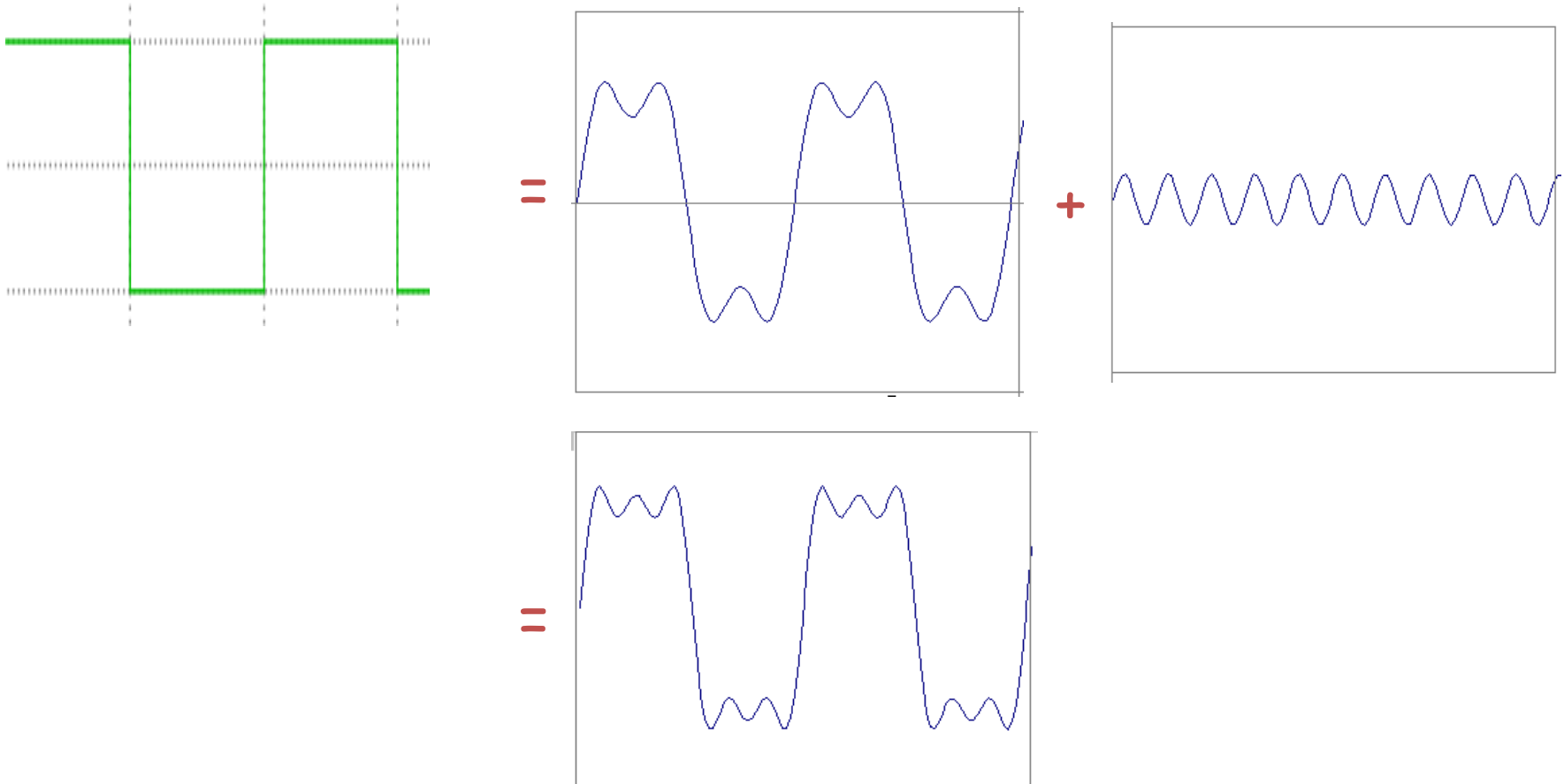
# Frequency Spectra



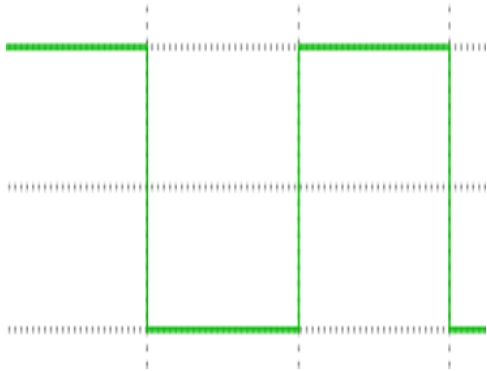
# Frequency Spectra



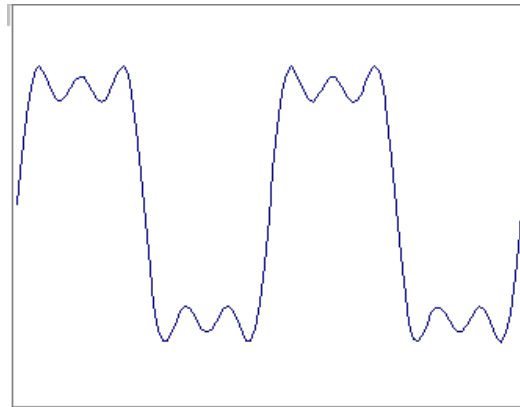
# Frequency Spectra



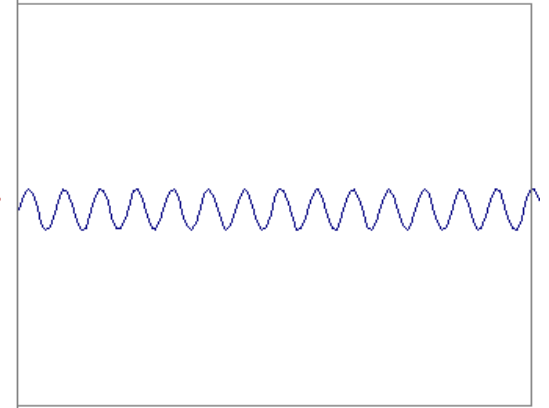
# Frequency Spectra



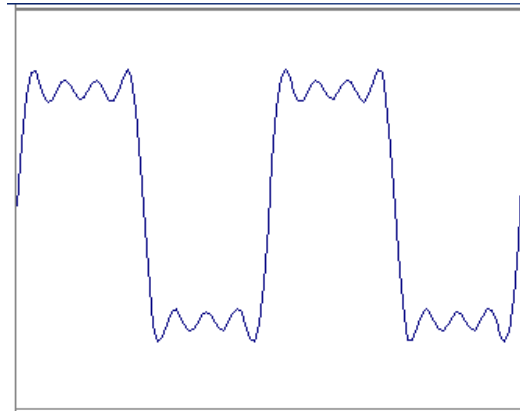
=



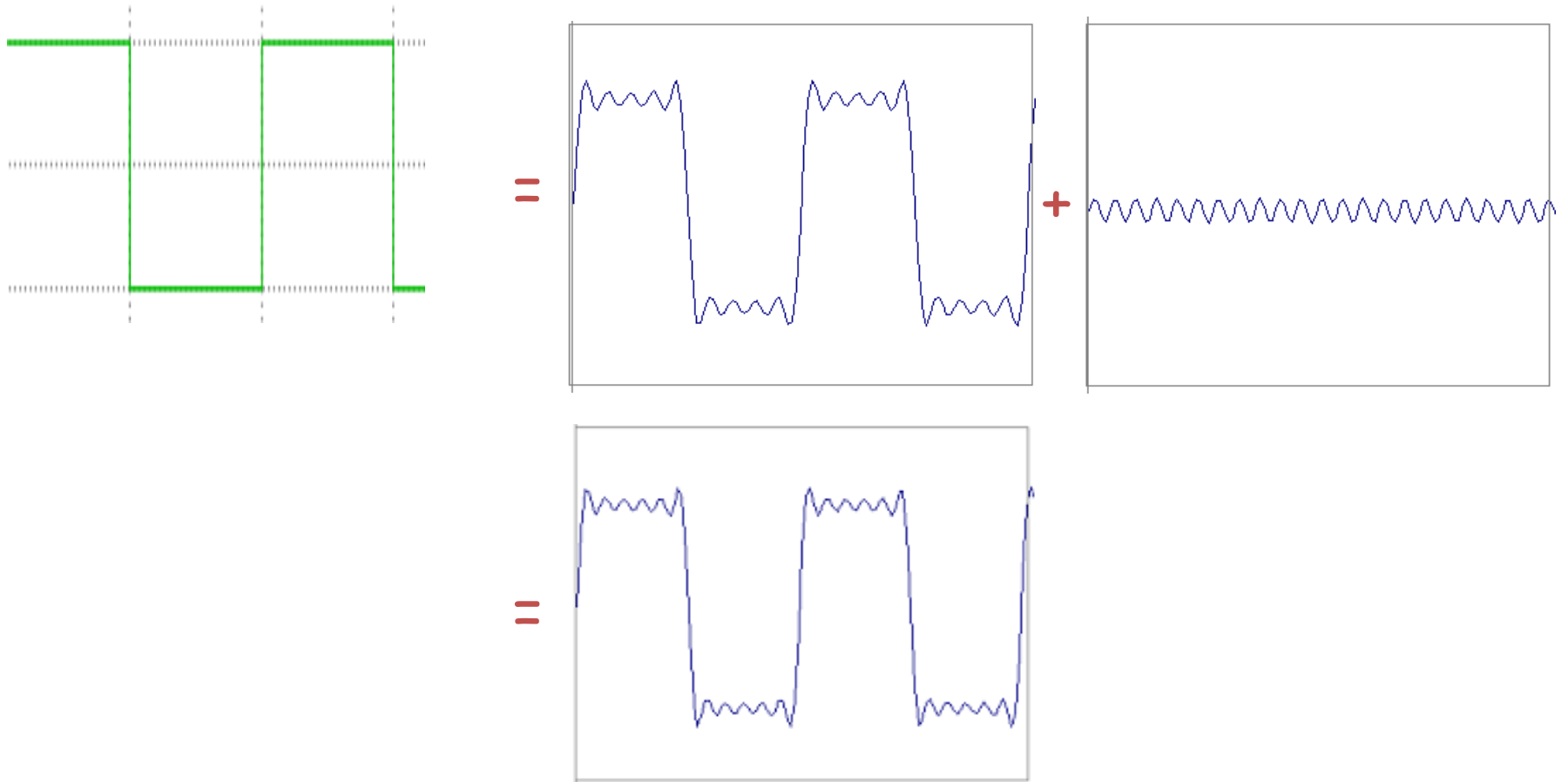
+



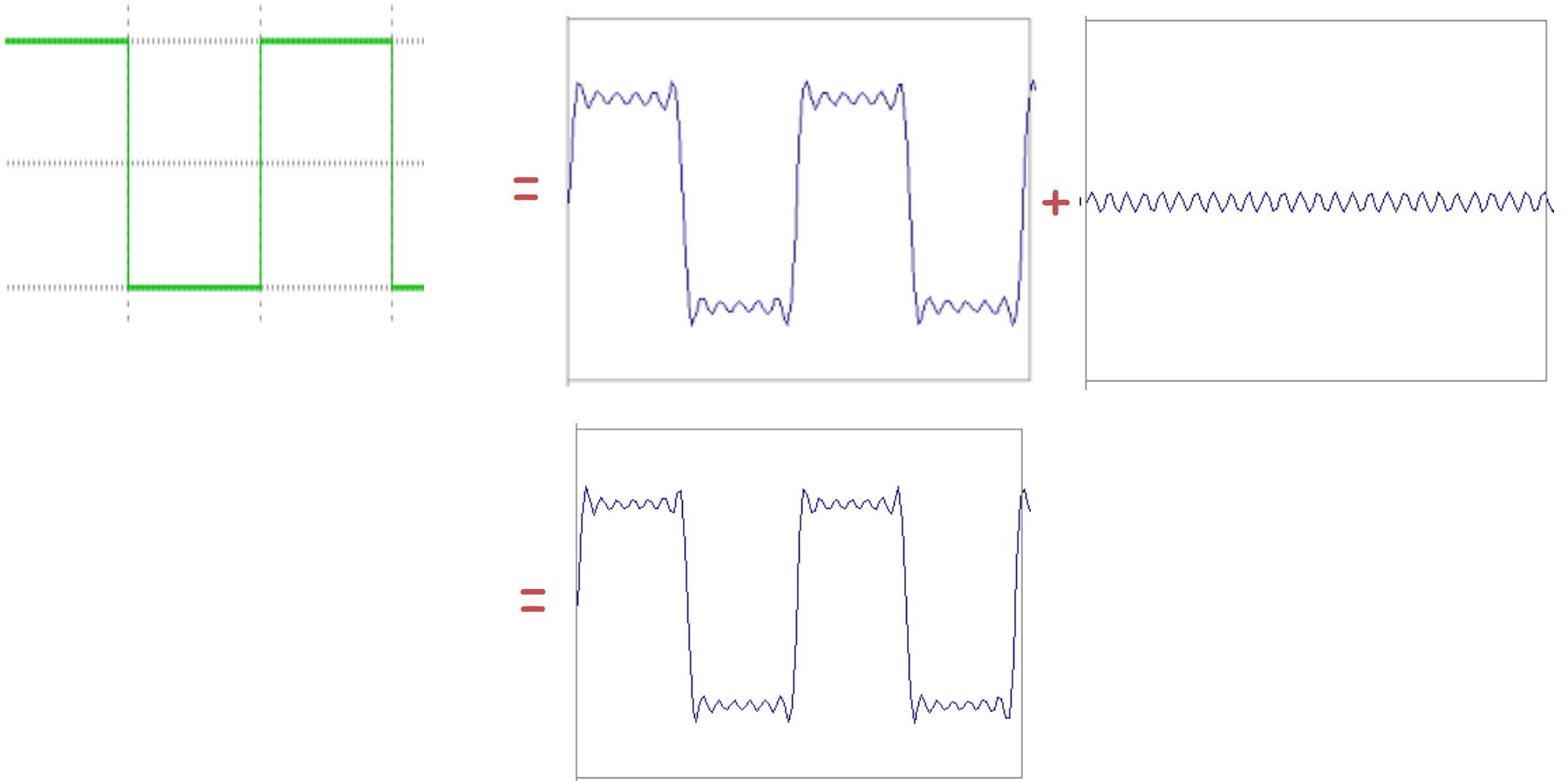
=



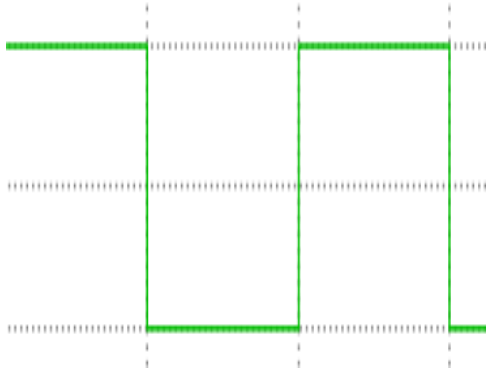
# Frequency Spectra



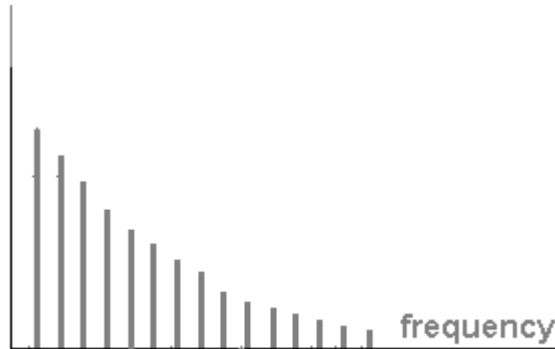
# Frequency Spectra



# Frequency Spectra



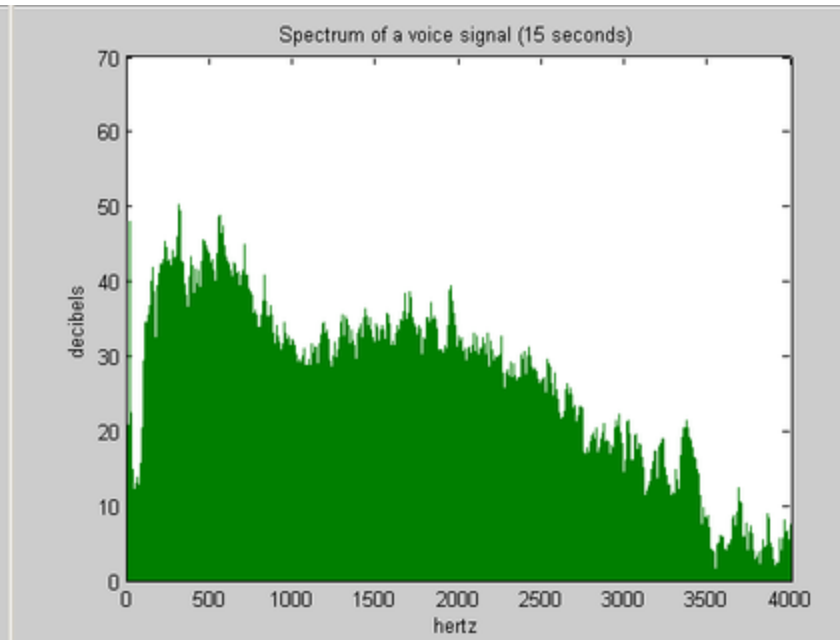
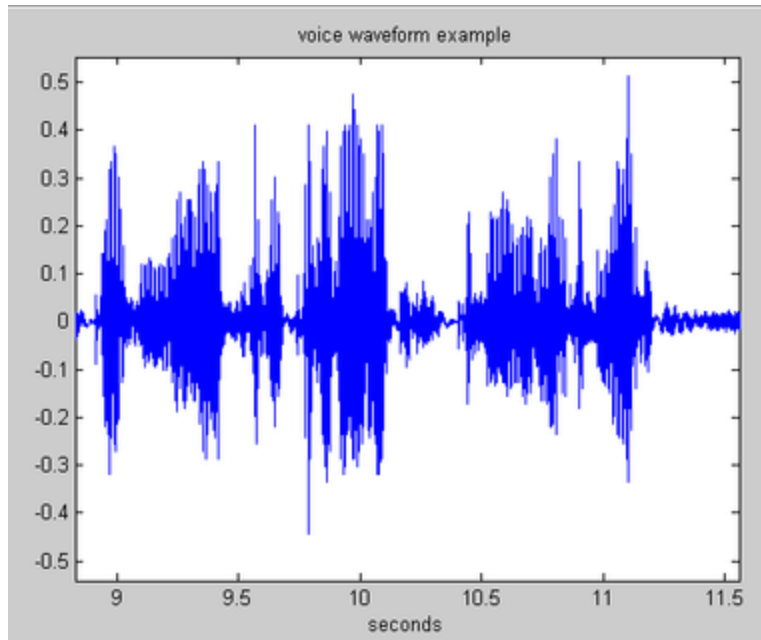
$$= A \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k} \sin(2\pi kt)$$





# Example: Music

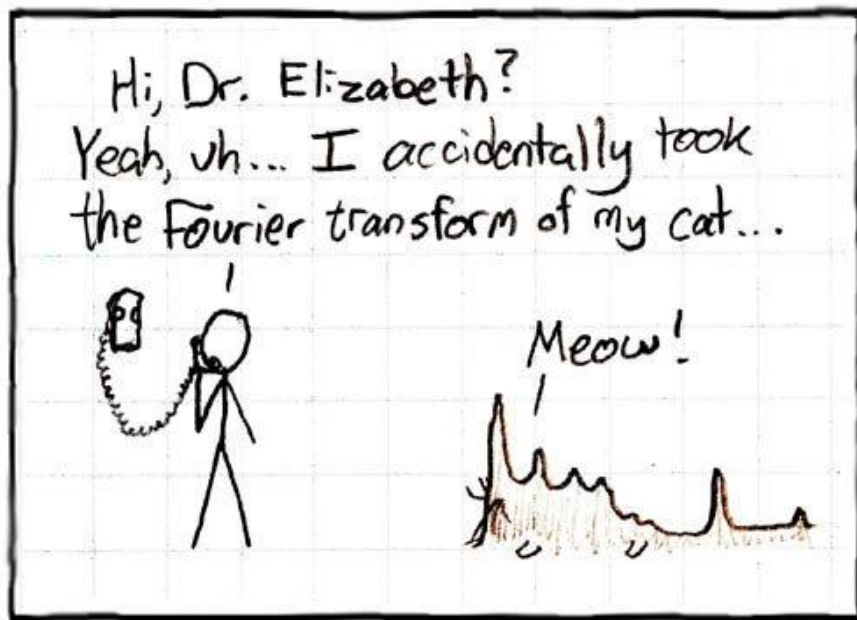
- We think of music in terms of frequencies at different magnitudes



# Other signals

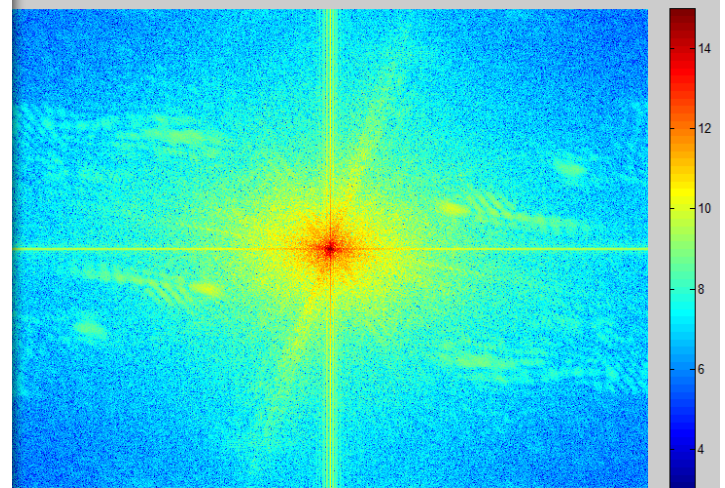
- We can also think of all kinds of other signals the same way

Cats(?)



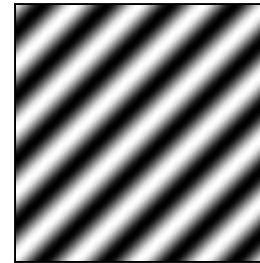
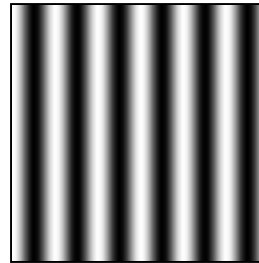
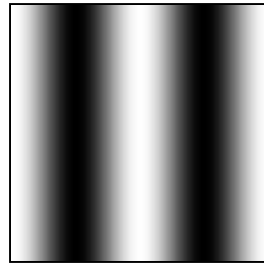
xkcd.com

FFT of  
my cat  
Tesla

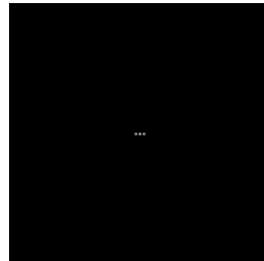


# Fourier analysis in images

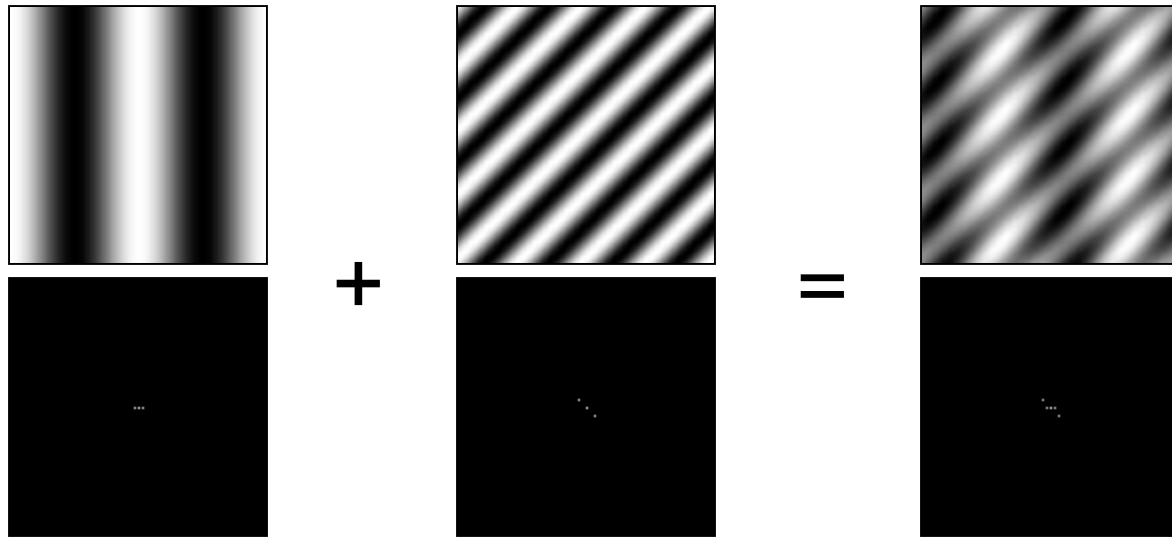
Intensity Image



Fourier Image



# Signals can be composed





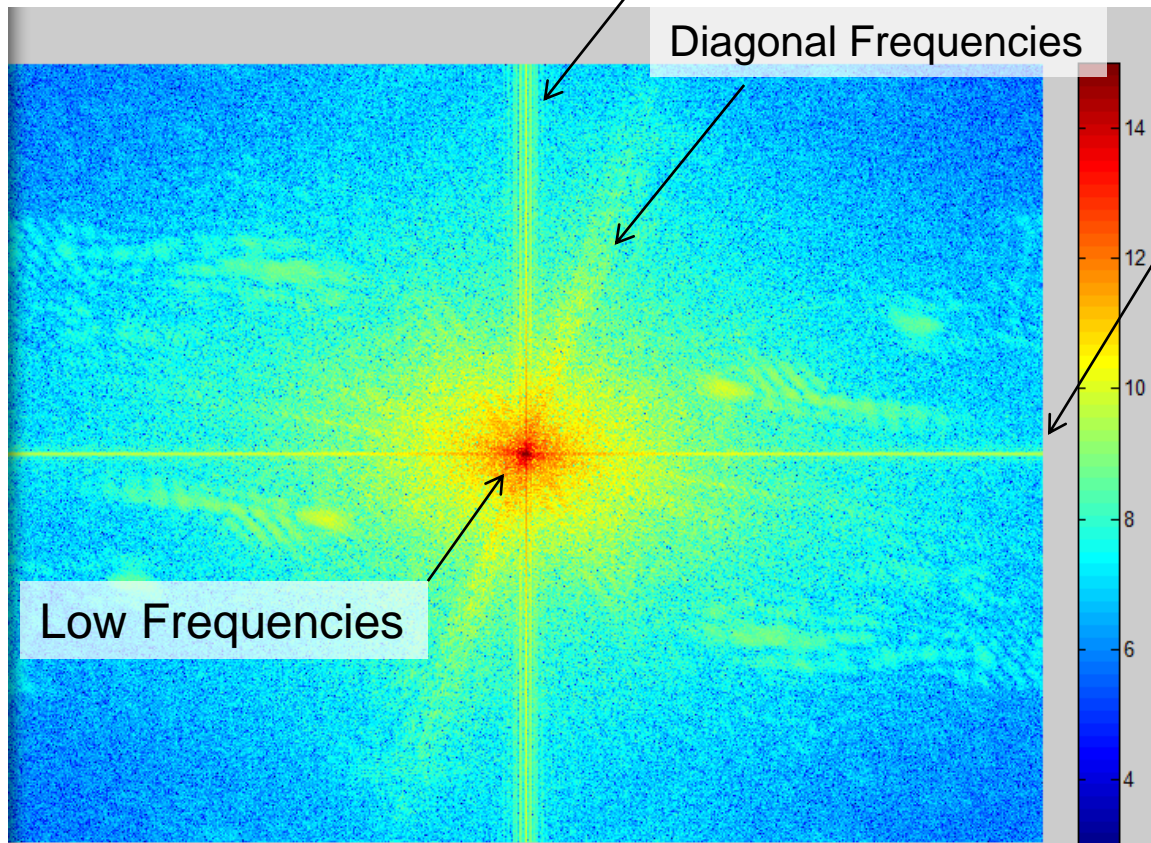
Strong Vertical Frequency  
(Sharp Horizontal Edge)

Diagonal Frequencies

Strong Horz. Frequency  
(Sharp Vert. Edge)

Log Magnitude

Low Frequencies



# Fourier Transform

- Fourier transform stores the magnitude and phase at each frequency
  - Magnitude encodes how much signal there is at a particular frequency
  - Phase encodes spatial information (indirectly)
  - For mathematical convenience, this is often notated in terms of real and complex numbers

$$\text{Amplitude: } A = \pm \sqrt{R(\omega)^2 + I(\omega)^2} \qquad \text{Phase: } \phi = \tan^{-1} \frac{I(\omega)}{R(\omega)}$$

$$\text{Euler's formula: } e^{inx} = \cos(nx) + i \sin(nx)$$

# Computing the Fourier Transform

$$H(\omega) = \mathcal{F} \{h(x)\} = Ae^{j\phi}$$

Continuous

$$H(\omega) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(x)e^{-j\omega x} dx$$

Discrete

$$H(k) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{x=0}^{N-1} h(x)e^{-j\frac{2\pi kx}{N}} \quad k = -N/2..N/2$$

Fast Fourier Transform (FFT):  $N \log N$

# The Convolution Theorem

- The Fourier transform of the convolution of two functions is the product of their Fourier transforms

$$F[g * h] = F[g]F[h]$$

- The inverse Fourier transform of the product of two Fourier transforms is the convolution of the two inverse Fourier transforms

$$F^{-1}[gh] = F^{-1}[g] * F^{-1}[h]$$

- **Convolution** in spatial domain is equivalent to **multiplication** in frequency domain!



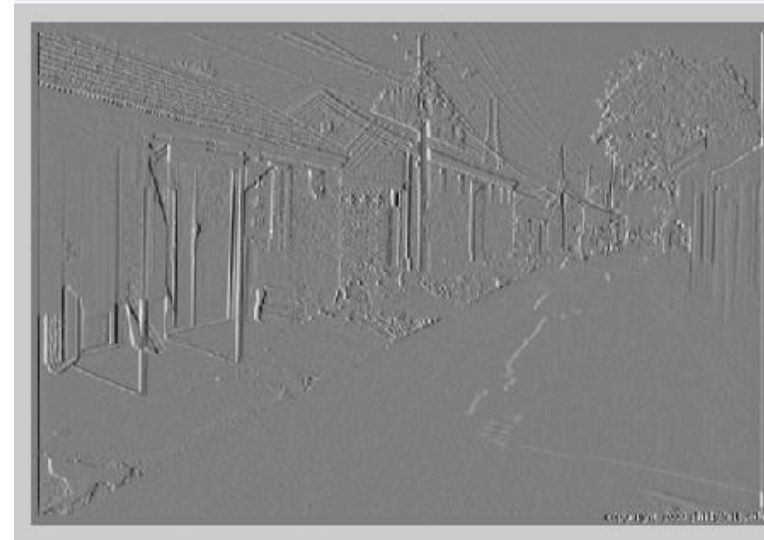
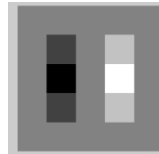
# Properties of Fourier Transforms

- Linearity  $\mathcal{F}[ax(t) + by(t)] = a\mathcal{F}[x(t)] + b\mathcal{F}[y(t)]$
- Fourier transform of a real signal is symmetric about the origin
- The energy of the signal is the same as the energy of its Fourier transform

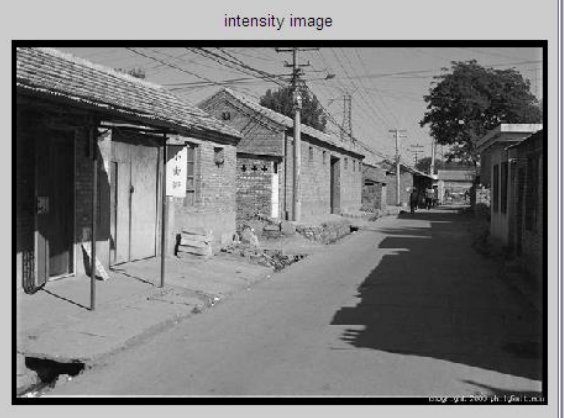
# Filtering in spatial domain

1	0	-1
2	0	-2
1	0	-1

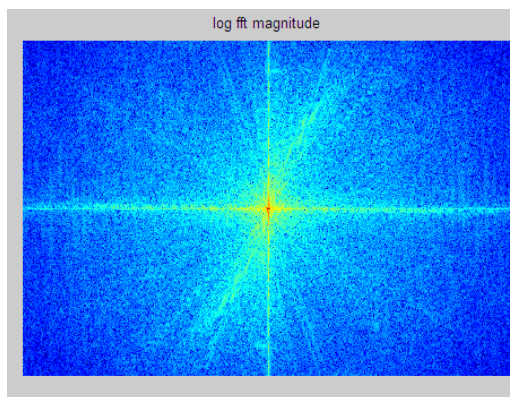
intensity image



# Filtering in frequency domain

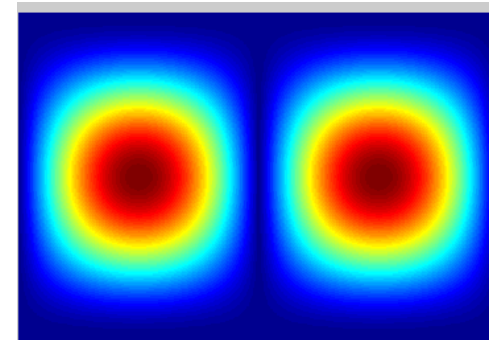


FFT



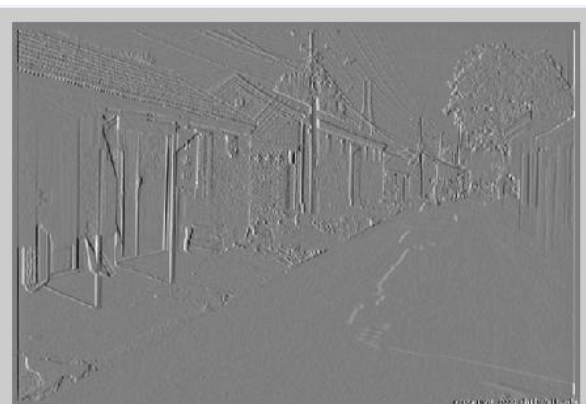
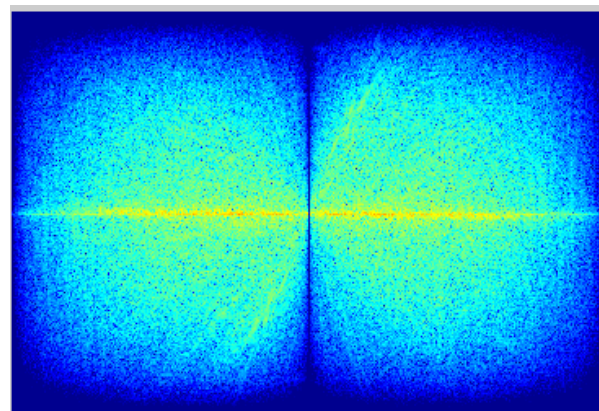
$\times$

FFT



$=$

Inverse FFT



# Fourier Matlab demo

# FFT in Matlab

- Filtering with fft

```
im = ... % "im" should be a gray-scale floating point image
[imh, imw] = size(im);
fftsize = 1024; % should be order of 2 (for speed) and include padding
im_fft = fft2(im, fftsize, fftsize); % 1) fft im with padding
hs = 50; % filter half-size
fil = fspecial('gaussian', hs*2+1, 10);
fil_fft = fft2(fil, fftsize, fftsize); % 2) fft fil, pad to same size as image
im_fil_fft = im_fft .* fil_fft; % 3) multiply fft images
im_fil = ifft2(im_fil_fft); % 4) inverse fft2
im_fil = im_fil(1+hs:size(im,1)+hs, 1+hs:size(im, 2)+hs); % 5) remove padding
```

- Displaying with fft

```
figure(1), imagesc(log(abs(fftshift(im_fft)))), axis image, colormap jet
```

# Questions

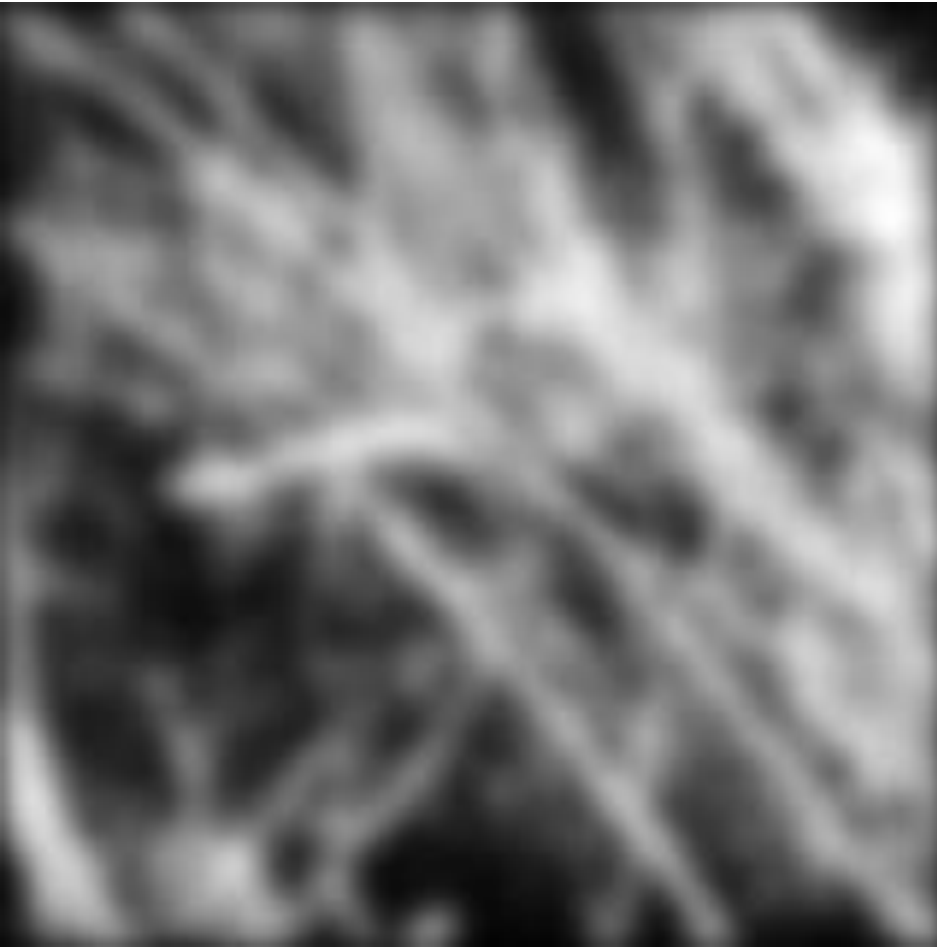
Which has more information, the phase or the magnitude?

What happens if you take the phase from one image and combine it with the magnitude from another image?

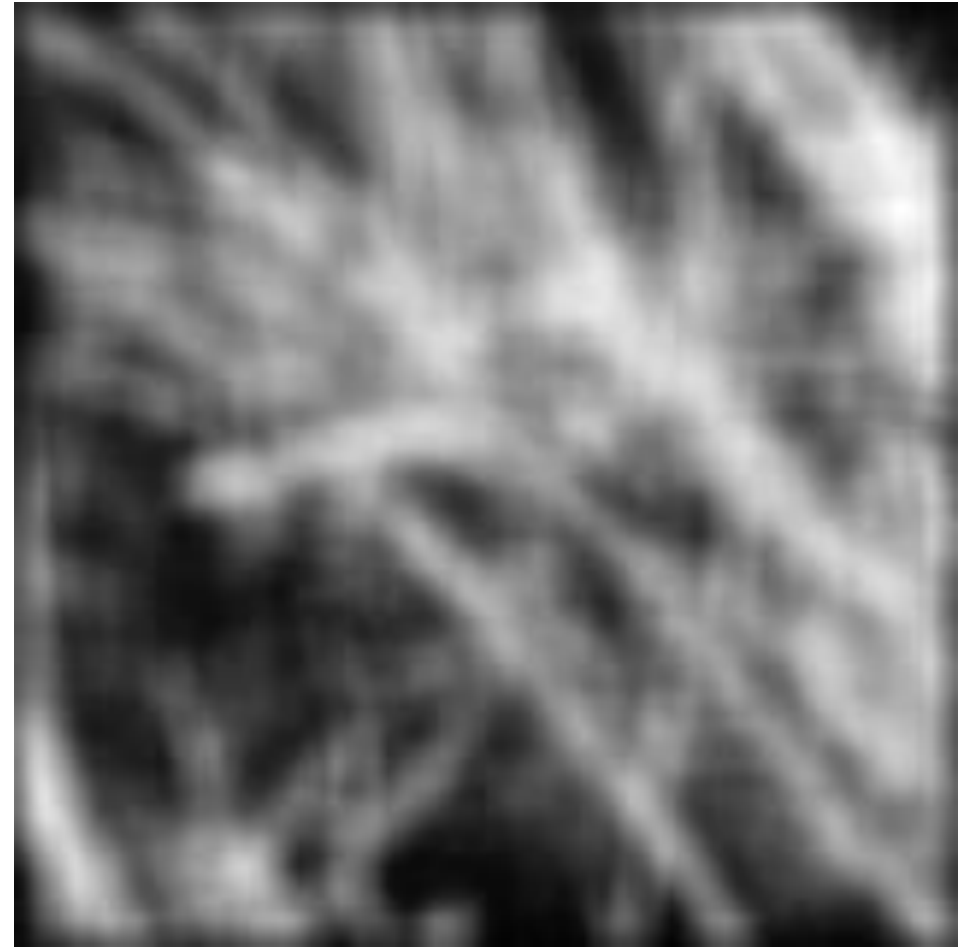
# Filtering

**Why does the Gaussian give a nice smooth image, but the square filter give edgy artifacts?**

Gaussian



Box filter

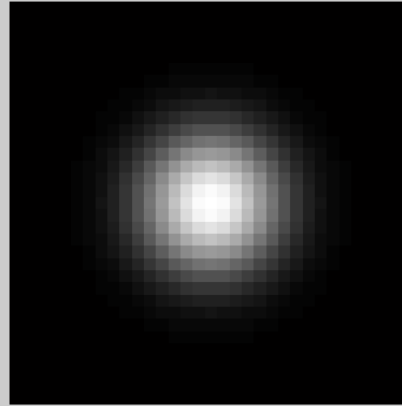


# Gaussian

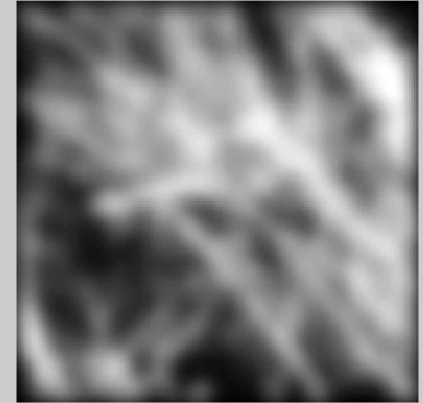
intensity image



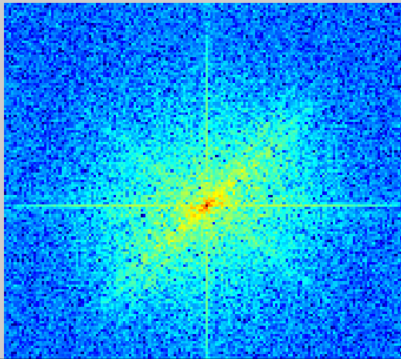
filter: gaussian



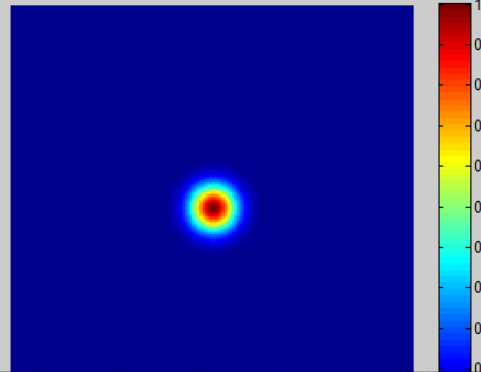
filtered image



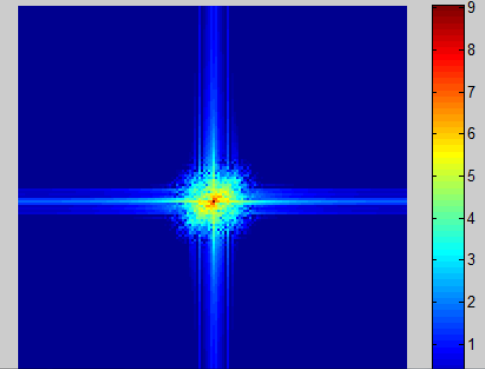
log fit magnitude of image



filter: gaussian

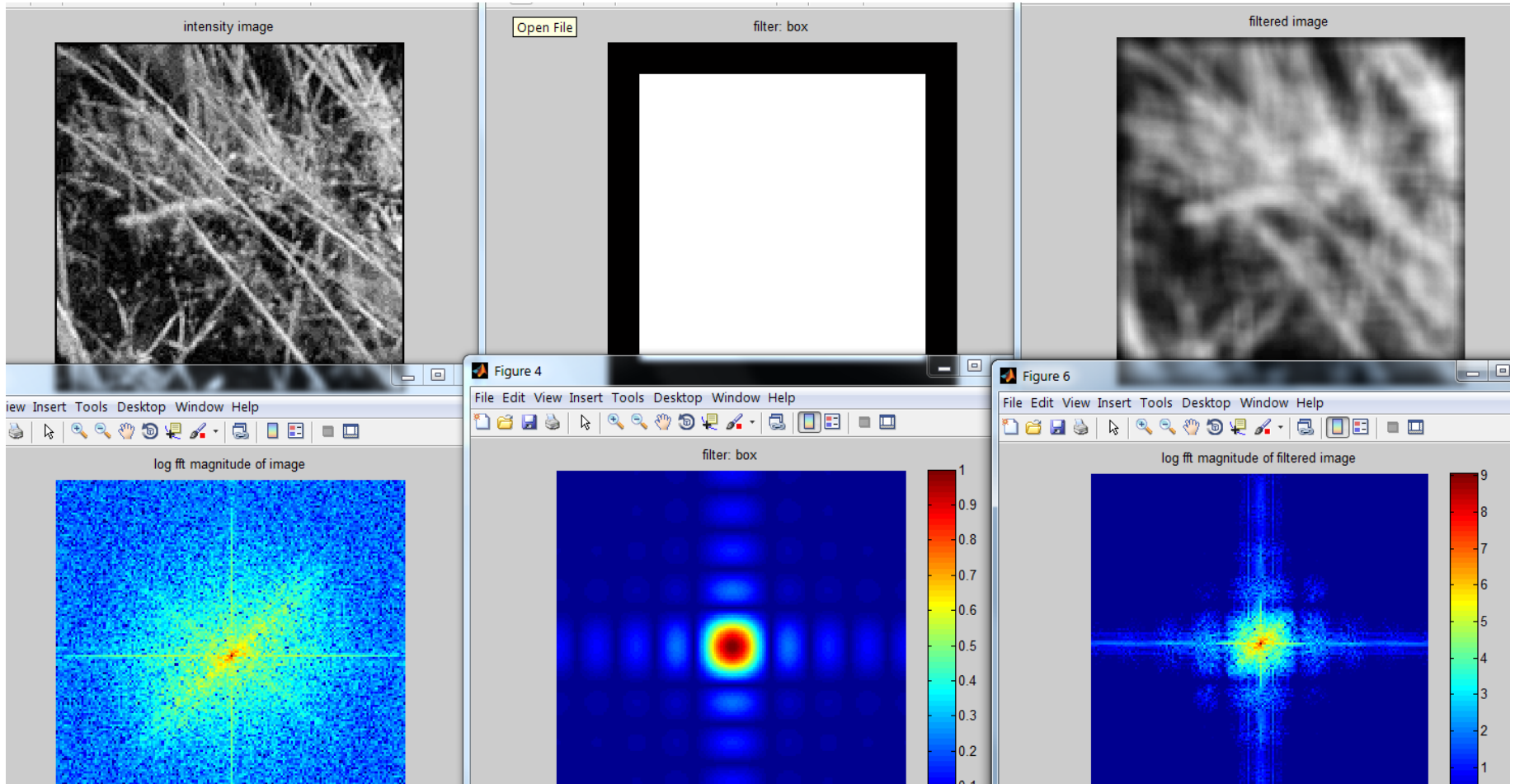


log fit magnitude of filtered image





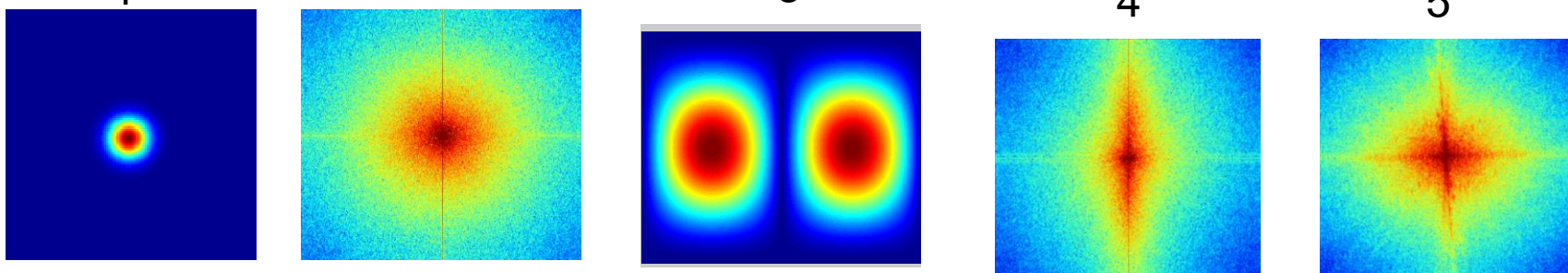
# Box Filter



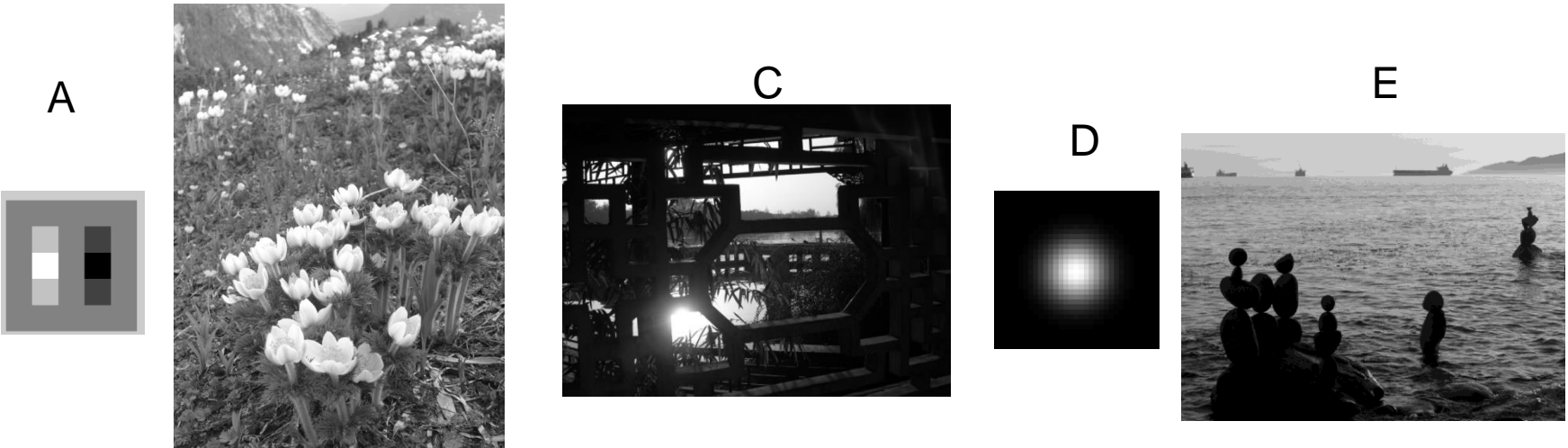
# Question

1. Match the spatial domain image to the Fourier magnitude image

1                      2                      3                      4                      5



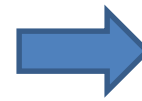
A                      B                      C                      D                      E



The image displays five Fourier magnitude images (1-5) and five spatial domain images (A-E) for matching. The Fourier magnitude images show the frequency content of the spatial domain images. Image 1 is a single central peak, corresponding to a constant image (A). Image 2 is a central peak with a vertical line, corresponding to a scene with a vertical structure (C). Image 3 is two side-by-side peaks, corresponding to a scene with two main objects (E). Image 4 is a central vertical line, corresponding to a scene with a vertical structure (C). Image 5 is a central cross, corresponding to a scene with a central spot (D). Image B is a field of white tulips, which would have a complex Fourier magnitude image with many peaks.

# Sampling

**Why does a lower resolution image still make sense to us? What do we lose?**



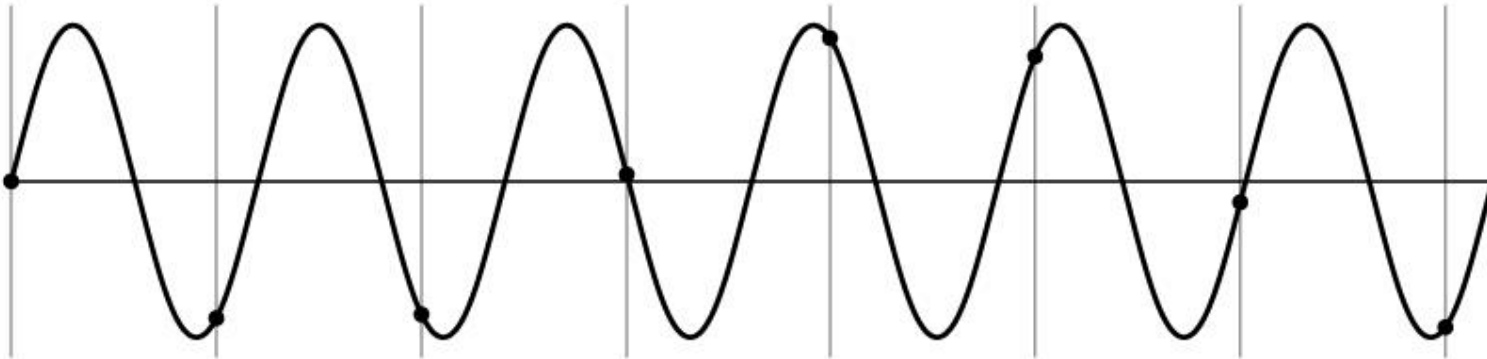
# Subsampling by a factor of 2



Throw away every other row and column to create a 1/2 size image

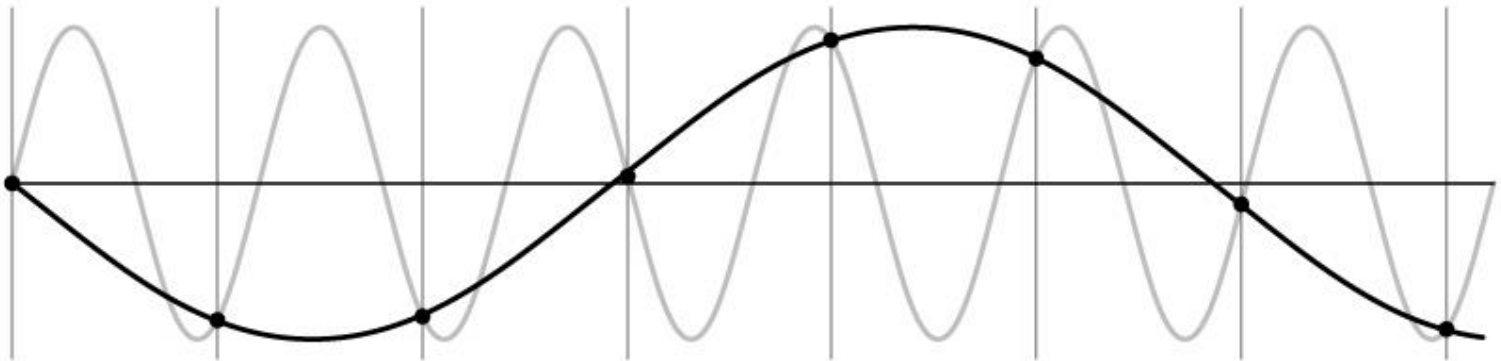
# Aliasing problem

- 1D example (sinewave):



# Aliasing problem

- 1D example (sinewave):



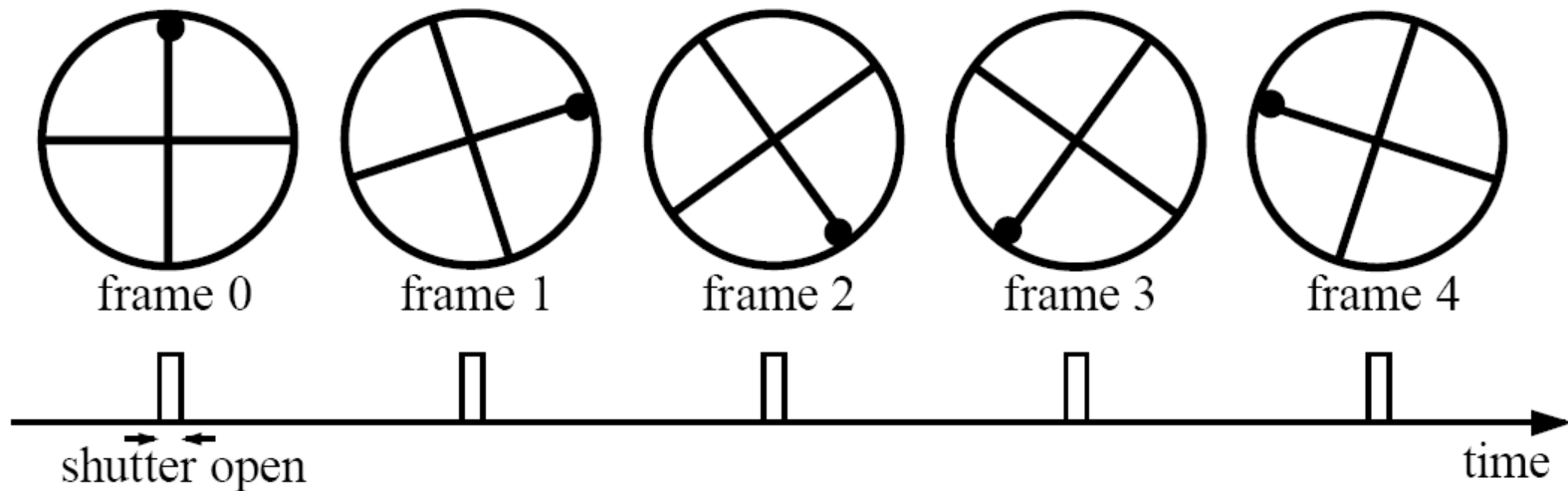
# Aliasing problem

- Sub-sampling may be dangerous....
- Characteristic errors may appear:
  - “Wagon wheels rolling the wrong way in movies”
  - “Checkerboards disintegrate in ray tracing”
  - “Striped shirts look funny on color television”

# Aliasing in video

Imagine a spoked wheel moving to the right (rotating clockwise).  
Mark wheel with dot so we can see what's happening.

If camera shutter is only open for a fraction of a frame time (frame time = 1/30 sec. for video, 1/24 sec. for film):



Without dot, wheel appears to be rotating slowly backwards!  
(counterclockwise)



# Aliasing in graphics



# Sampling and aliasing

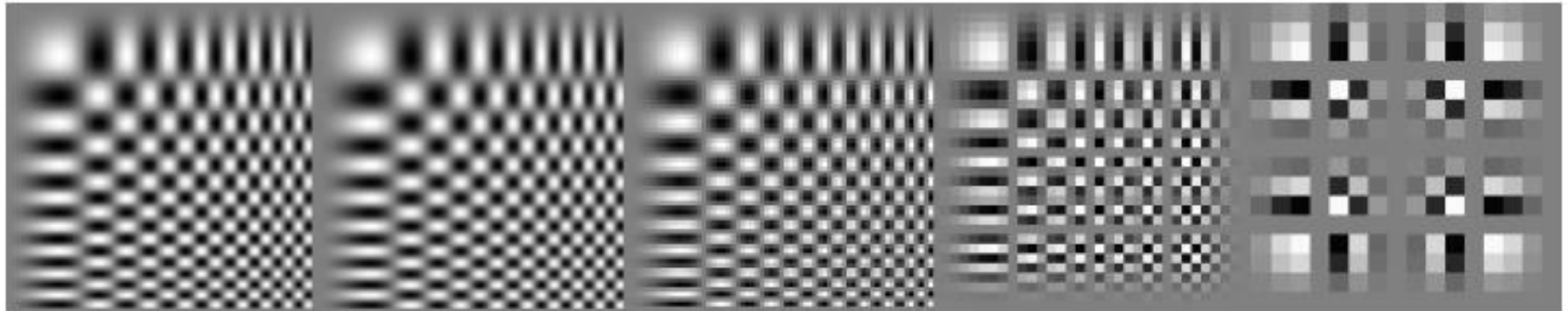
256x256

128x128

64x64

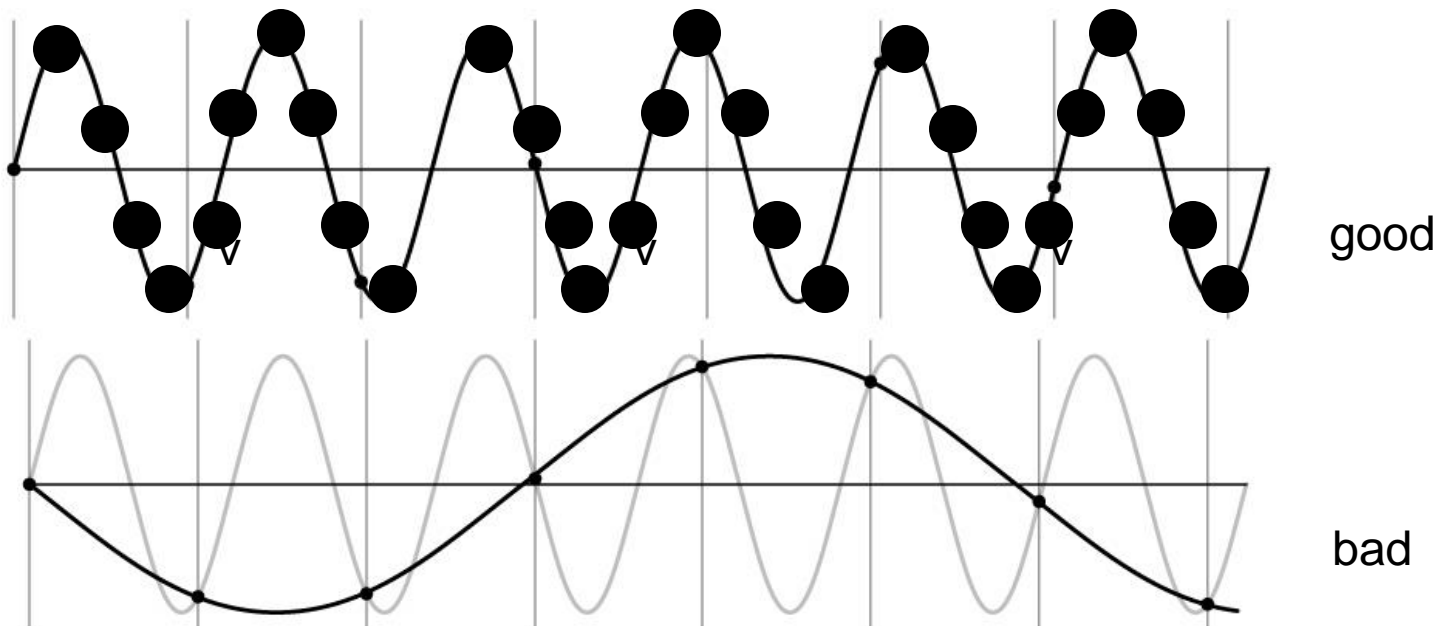
32x32

16x16



# Nyquist-Shannon Sampling Theorem

- When sampling a signal at discrete intervals, the sampling frequency must be  $\geq 2 \times f_{\max}$
- $f_{\max}$  = max frequency of the input signal
- This will allow to reconstruct the original perfectly from the sampled version



# Anti-aliasing

## Solutions:

- Sample more often
- Get rid of all frequencies that are greater than half the new sampling frequency
  - Will lose information
  - But it's better than aliasing
  - Apply a smoothing filter

# Algorithm for downsampling by factor of 2

1. Start with image(h, w)

2. Apply low-pass filter

```
im_blur = imfilter(image, fspecial('gaussian', 7, 1))
```

3. Sample every other pixel

```
im_small = im_blur(1:2:end, 1:2:end);
```

# Anti-aliasing

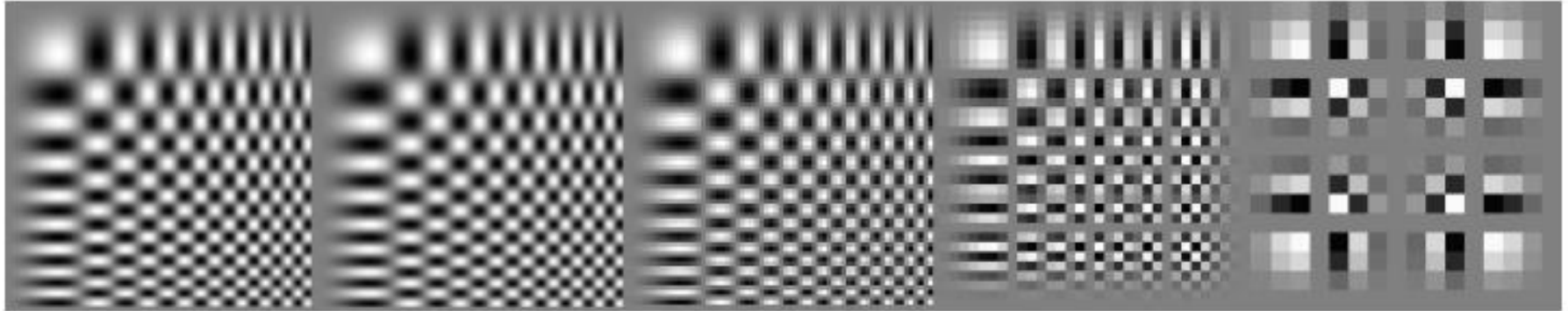
256x256

128x128

64x64

32x32

16x16



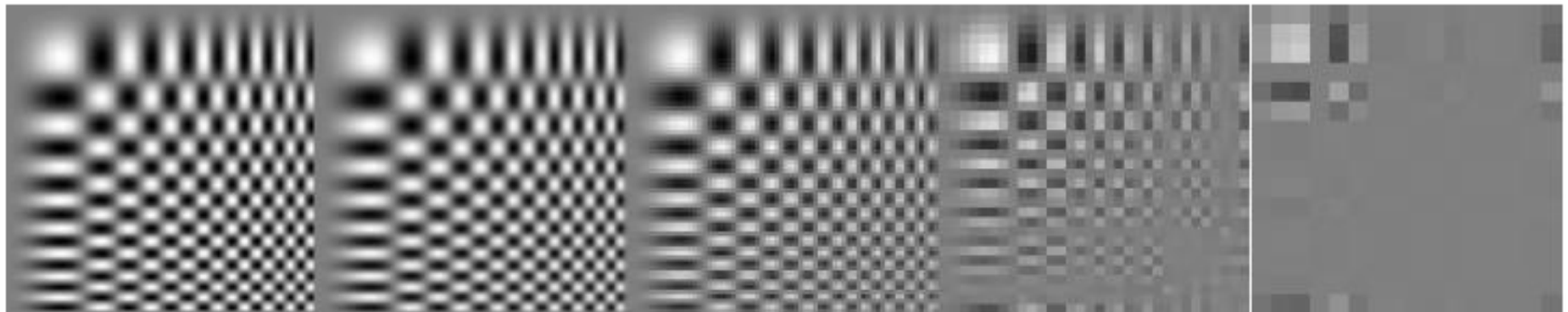
256x256

128x128

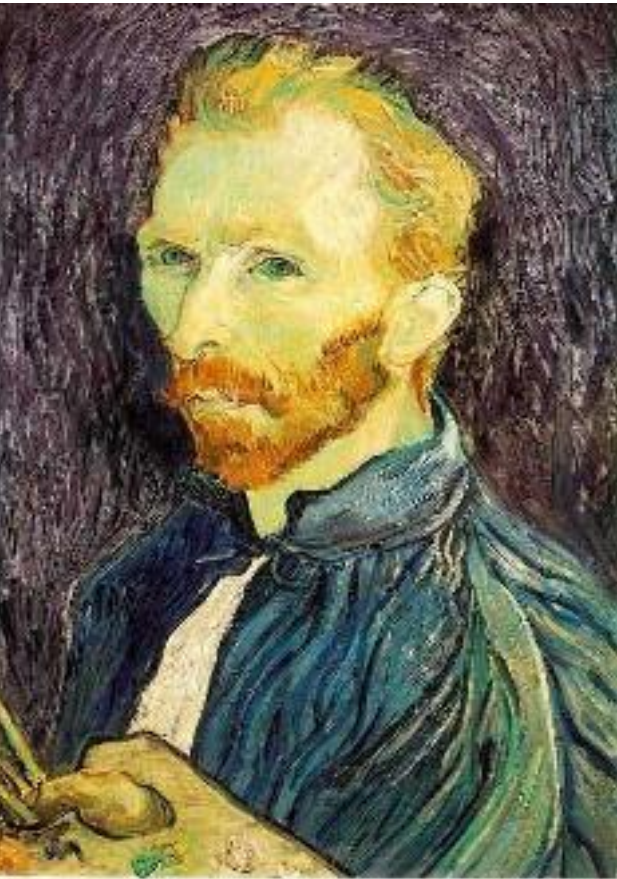
64x64

32x32

16x16



# Subsampling without pre-filtering



1/2



1/4 (2x zoom)



1/8 (4x zoom)

# Subsampling with Gaussian pre-filtering



Gaussian  $1/2$



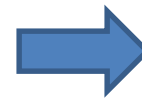
G  $1/4$



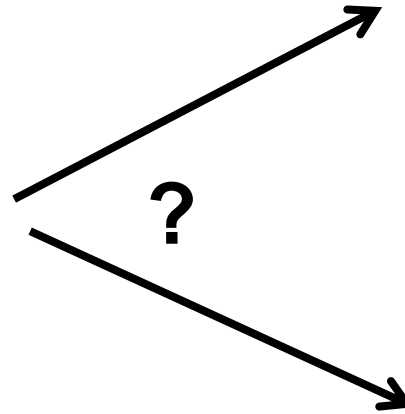
G  $1/8$



**Why does a lower resolution image still make sense to us? What do we lose?**

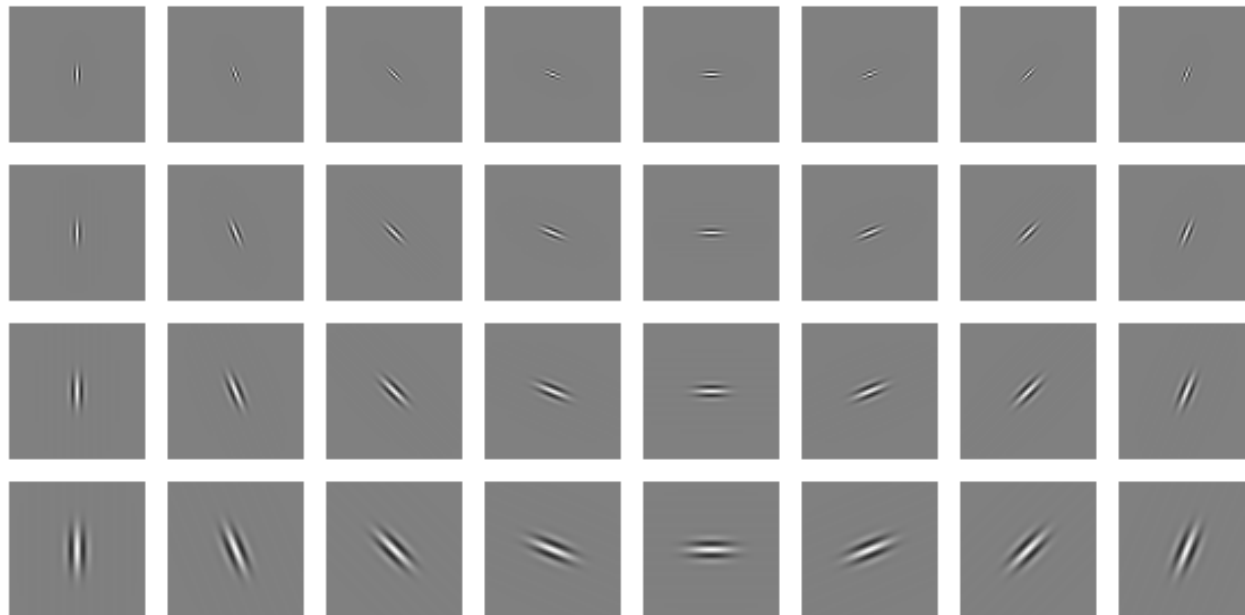


# Why do we get different, distance-dependent interpretations of hybrid images?



# Clues from Human Perception

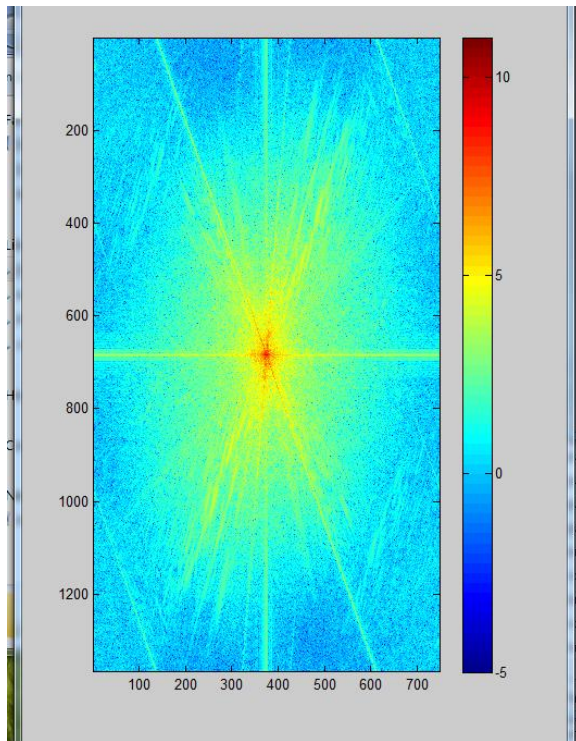
- Early processing in humans filters for various orientations and scales of frequency
- Perceptual cues in the mid-high frequencies dominate perception
- When we see an image from far away, we are effectively subsampling it



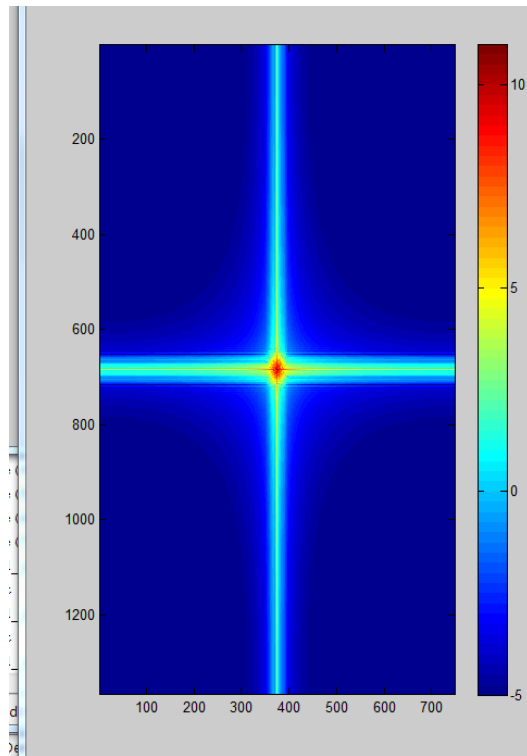
Early Visual Processing: Multi-scale edge and blob filters

# Hybrid Image in FFT

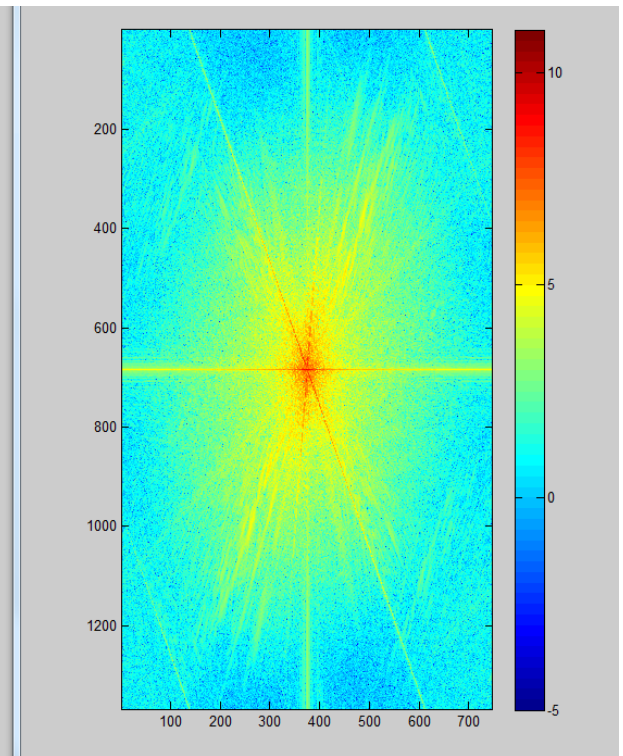
Hybrid Image



Low-passed Image

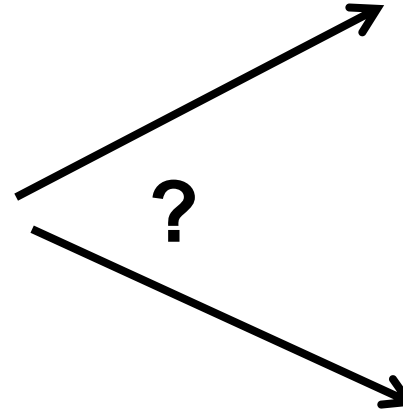


High-passed Image



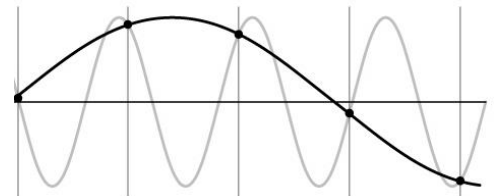
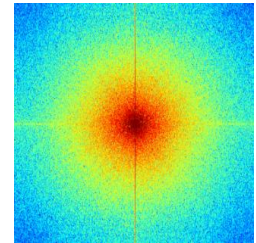
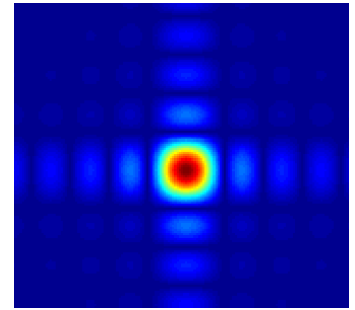
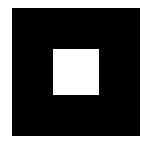
# Perception

**Why do we get different, distance-dependent interpretations of hybrid images?**



# Things to Remember

- Sometimes it makes sense to think of images and filtering in the frequency domain
  - Fourier analysis
- Can be faster to filter using FFT for large images ( $N \log N$  vs.  $N^2$  for auto-correlation)
- Images are mostly smooth
  - Basis for compression
- Remember to low-pass before sampling



# Next class

- Template matching
- Image Pyramids
- Filter banks and texture
- Denoising, Compression