


ECE 172A: Introduction to Image Processing

Analog Images: Part II

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Outline

- Images as Functions 
 - Vector-space formulation
 - Two-Dimensional **Systems**
- 2D Fourier Transform
 - Properties
 - Dirac Impulse, etc.
- Characterization of **LSI** Systems
 - Multidimensional **Convolution**
 - Modeling of Optical Systems
 - Examples of **Impulse Responses**

2D Fourier Transform

- Definition ✓
- Separability ✓
- Properties ✓
- Dirac impulse ✓
- Dirac related Fourier transforms ✓
- Application: finding the orientation
- Importance of the phase

Dirac-Related Fourier Transforms

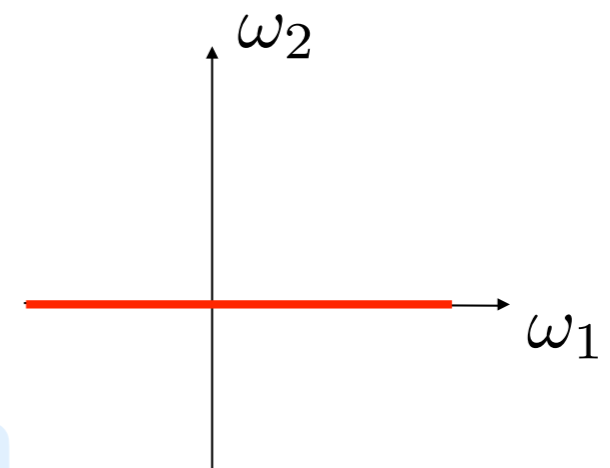
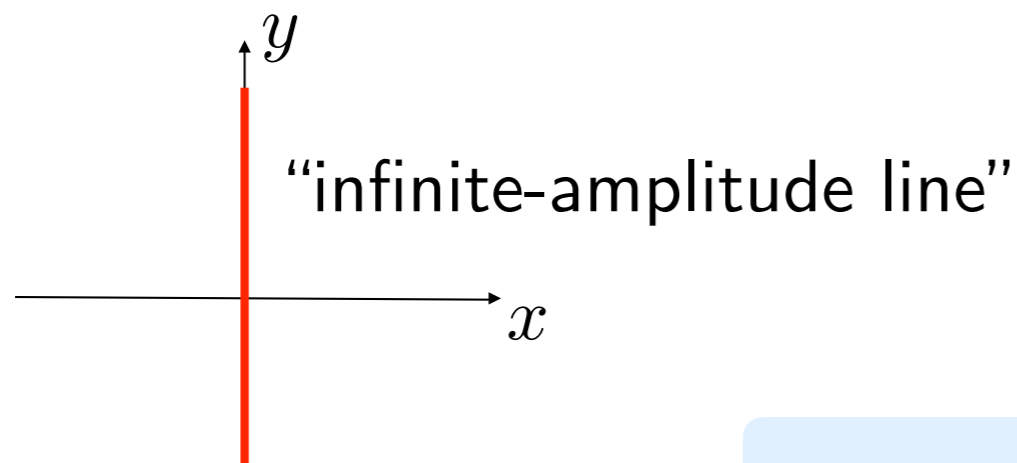
- Constant

One-dimensional: $1 \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-j\omega x} dx = ???$
 $= \lim_{A \rightarrow \infty} \int_{-A}^A e^{-j\omega x} dx = 2\pi \delta(\omega)$ (or by duality)

Two-dimensional: $1 \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} (2\pi)^2 \delta(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = (2\pi)^2 \delta(\omega_1, \omega_2)$

- Dirac line (or “ideal” line)

$$f(x, y) = \delta(x) \cdot 1 = f_1(x) f_2(y) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \hat{f}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \hat{f}_1(\omega_1) \hat{f}_2(\omega_2) = 1 \cdot 2\pi \delta(\omega_2)$$



What does this mean?

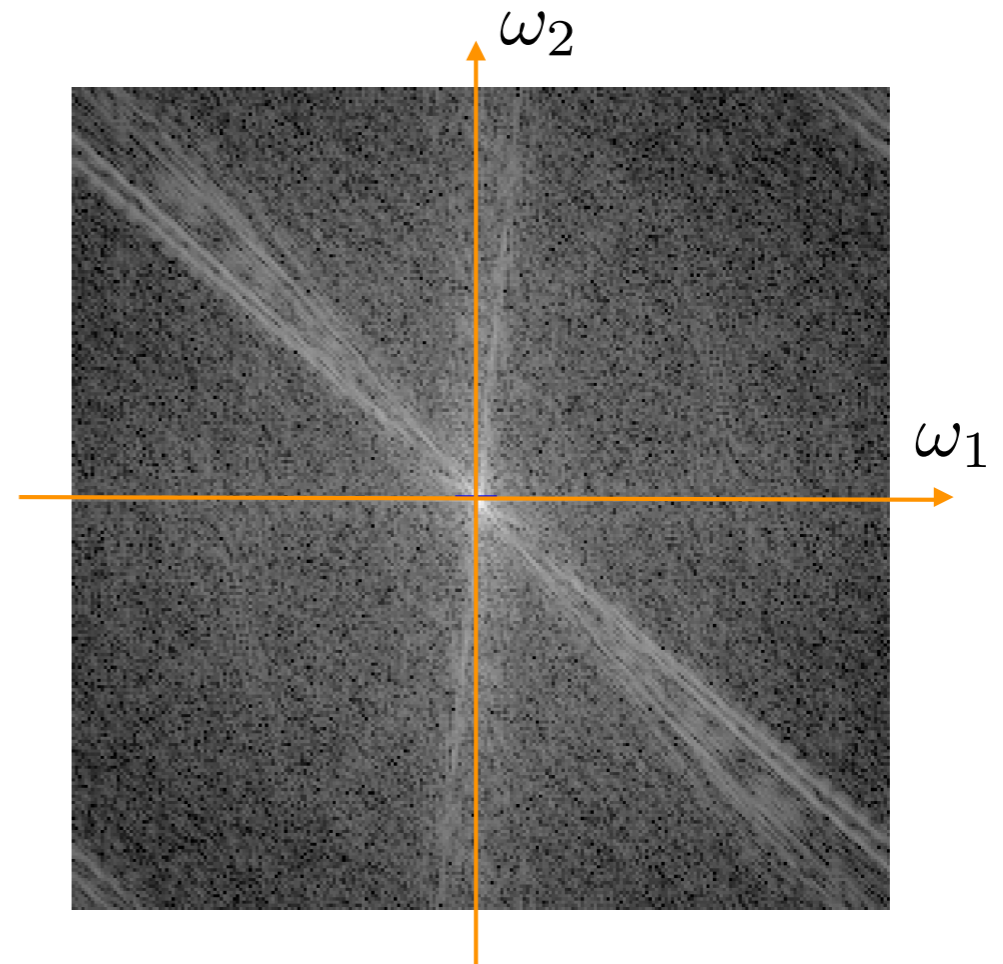
Example

Spatial Domain



$$f(x, y)$$

Fourier Domain



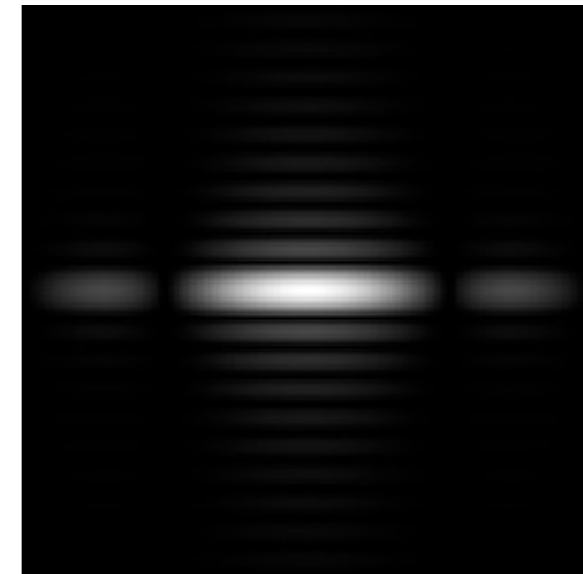
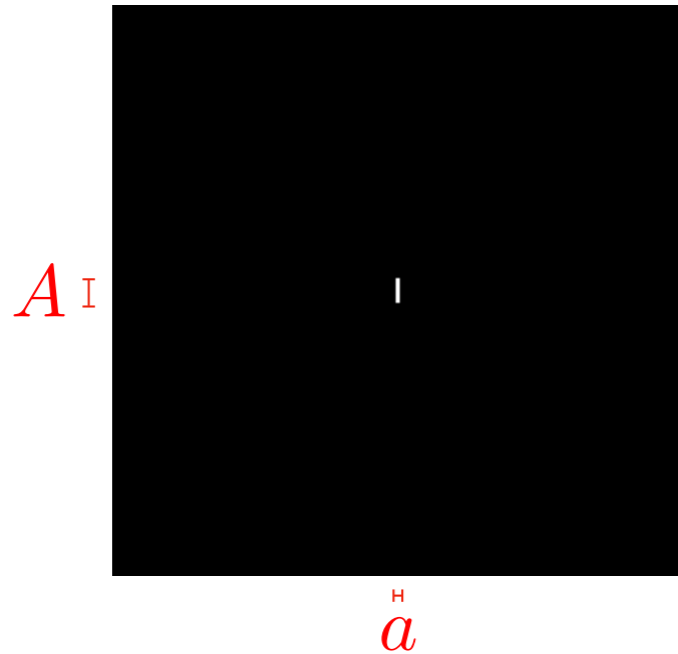
$$\hat{f}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$$

What are these two sets of lines?

More-Realistic Line Model

- Rectangular shape

$$f(x, y) = \text{rect}(x/a) \text{rect}(y/A) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} |a| \text{sinc}\left(\frac{a\omega_1}{2\pi}\right) |A| \text{sinc}\left(\frac{A\omega_2}{2\pi}\right)$$



Reminder:

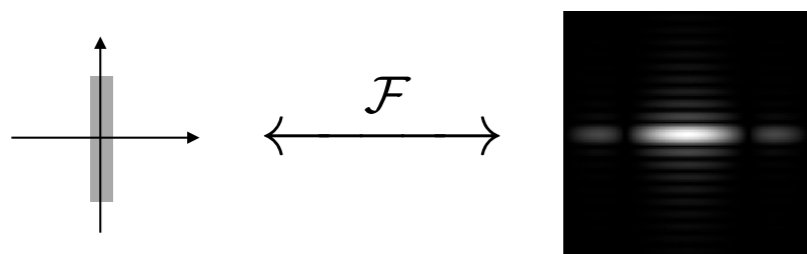
$$\text{rect}(x) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } x \in [-1/2, 1/2] \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases} \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \text{sinc}\left(\frac{\omega}{2\pi}\right) = \frac{\sin(\omega/2)}{\omega/2}$$

Application: Orientation Estimation

- **Problem:** Design a (real time?) system that can determine the orientation of a (linear) pattern placed at an arbitrary location in an image.

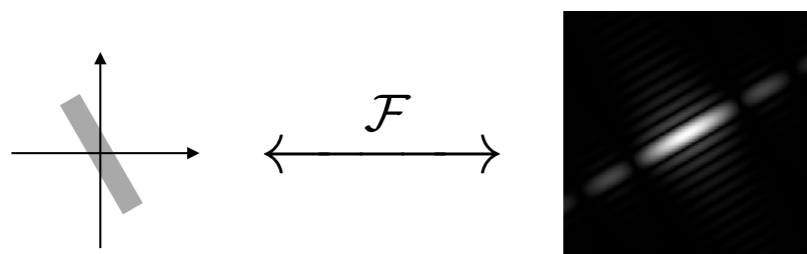
Any ideas?

- What do we know?



$$g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) = f(\mathbf{R}_{\theta}\mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathbf{R}_{\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix}$$



$$g_{\theta}(\mathbf{x}) \xrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \hat{f}(\mathbf{R}_{\theta}\boldsymbol{\omega})$$

We want to find the orientation in the Fourier domain with the **least spread**.

Problem Solution

- Compute the “Fourier inertia” matrix (second-moment matrix)

$$\mathbf{M} = \begin{bmatrix} \iint \omega_1^2 |\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})|^2 d\omega_1 d\omega_2 & \iint \omega_1 \omega_2 |\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})|^2 d\omega_1 d\omega_2 \\ \iint \omega_2 \omega_1 |\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})|^2 d\omega_1 d\omega_2 & \iint \omega_2^2 |\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})|^2 d\omega_1 d\omega_2 \end{bmatrix}$$
$$= \begin{bmatrix} \langle j\omega_1 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}), j\omega_1 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \rangle & \langle j\omega_1 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}), j\omega_2 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \rangle \\ \langle j\omega_2 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}), j\omega_1 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \rangle & \langle j\omega_2 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}), j\omega_2 \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \rangle \end{bmatrix}$$

Second-order moments measure spread

$$= (2\pi)^2 \begin{bmatrix} \langle \partial_x f, \partial_x f \rangle & \langle \partial_x f, \partial_y f \rangle \\ \langle \partial_y f, \partial_x f \rangle & \langle \partial_y f, \partial_y f \rangle \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{fast algorithm via Parseval-Plancherel})$$

Which direction will have the least spread?

The direction of the **smallest eigenvalue**

Problem Solution (cont'd)

- Eigendecomposition of \mathbf{M} gives us the **axes of inertia**

$$\begin{bmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1^T \\ \mathbf{u}_2^T \end{bmatrix} \mathbf{M} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{u}_1 & \mathbf{u}_2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\lambda_1 \geq \lambda_2$$

\mathbf{u}_1 : eigenvector in the direction of the **long** axis
 \mathbf{u}_2 : eigenvector in the direction of the **short** axis

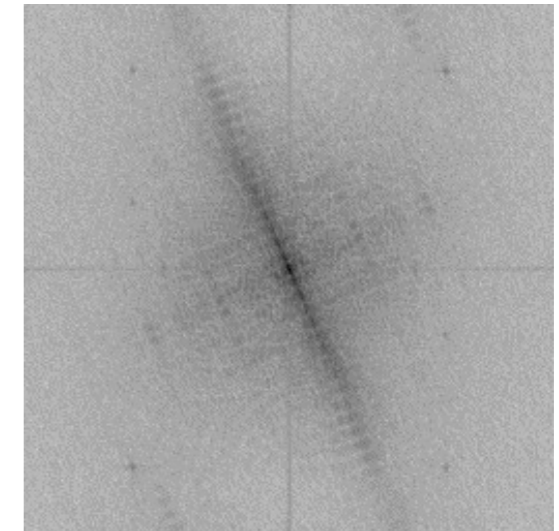
- Pipeline:
 1. Compute the Fourier inertia matrix \mathbf{M} via the fast algorithm
 2. Compute the eigendecomposition of \mathbf{M} and store \mathbf{u}_2
 3. Return the angle of \mathbf{u}_2
 - * $\theta = \arctan \frac{u_{22}}{u_{21}}$

Orientation Estimation in Action

- Image 1:

Measured angle: $25^\circ \pm 2^\circ$

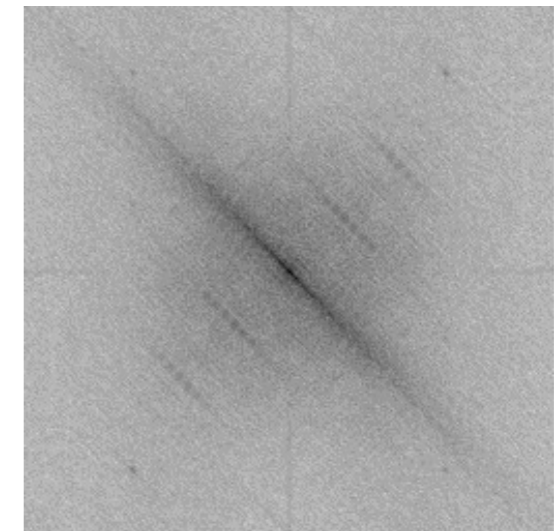
Computed angle: 27°



- Image 2:

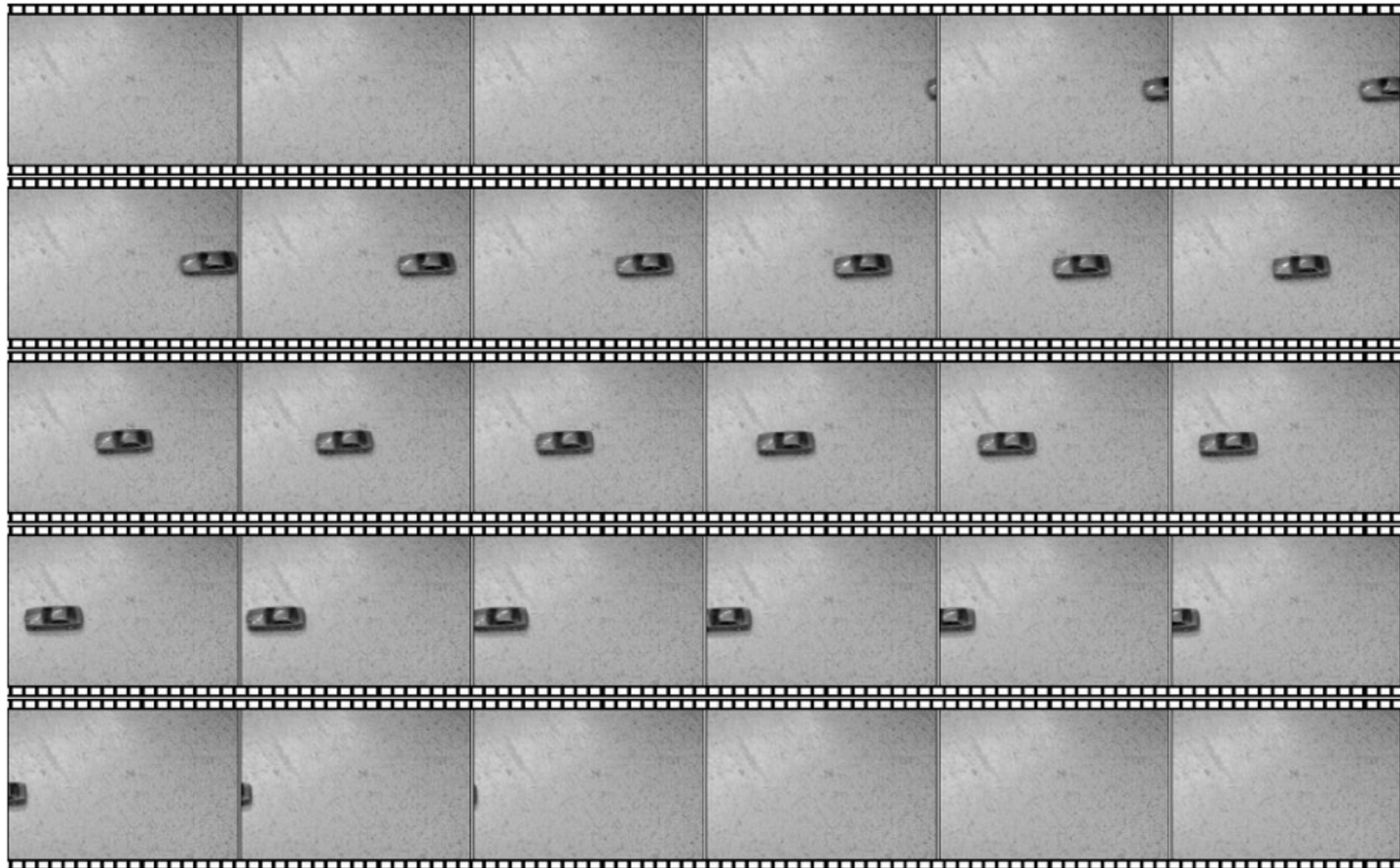
Measured angle: $44^\circ \pm 2^\circ$

Computed angle: 45.6°



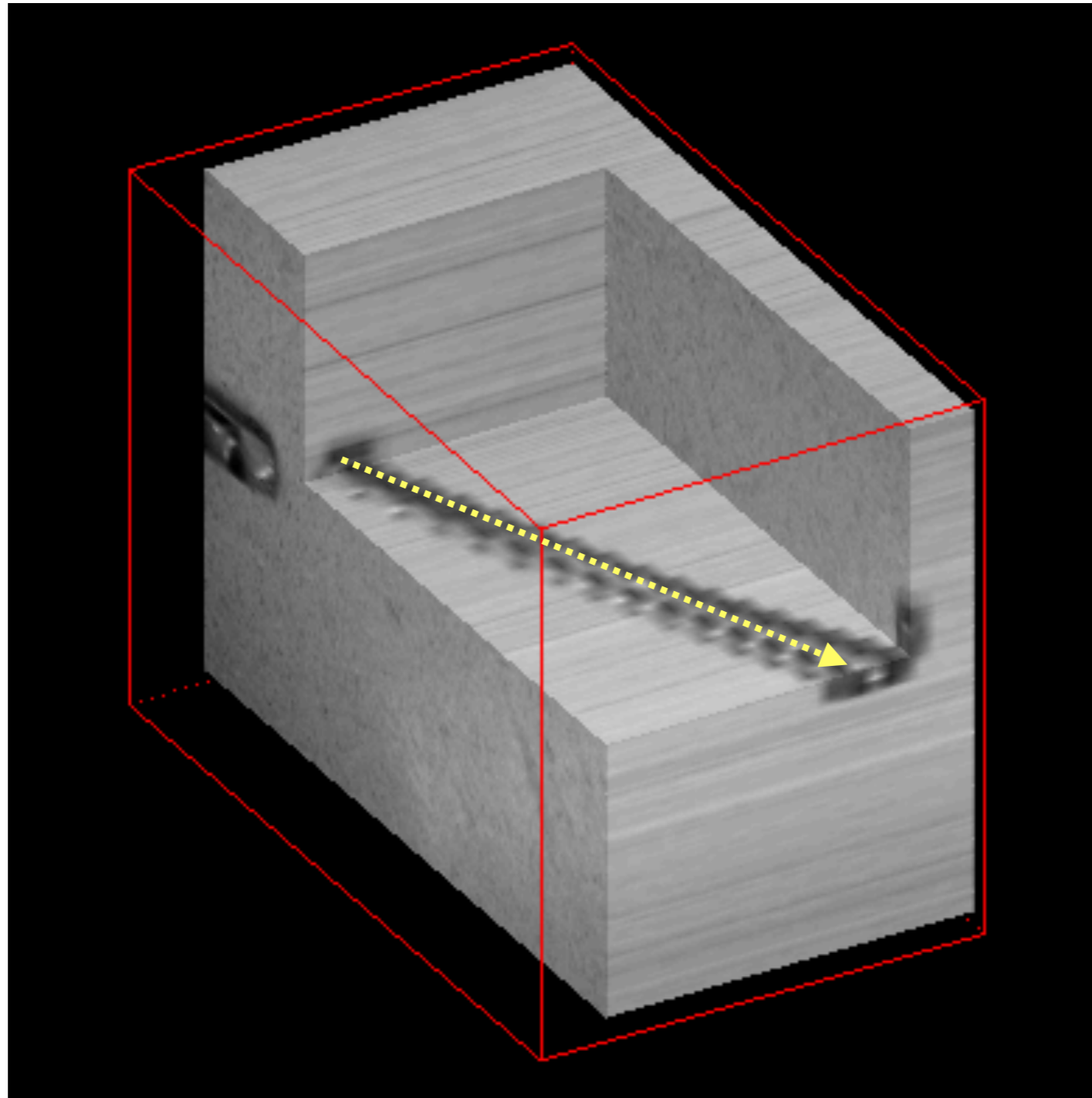
This is how (pre-deep-learning-based) machine vision worked

Video Example



How do we determine the direction of the car?

Video Example (cont'd)




What are the dimensions of the Fourier inertia matrix?

Magnitude and Phase Information

- The Fourier transform is **complex-valued**

$$\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{x}) e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}} d\mathbf{x} = |\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})| \exp(j\phi(\boldsymbol{\omega}))$$



- Fourier magnitude

$$|\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})| = \left(\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \hat{f}^*(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \right) = \sqrt{(\Re \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}))^2 + (\Im \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}))^2}$$

- Fourier phase

$$\phi(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \arg(\hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})) = \arctan\left(\frac{\Im \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})}{\Re \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})}\right)$$

Is the phase of the image spectrum important?
Can we get away with just the magnitude?

The Importance of Phase for Visual Perception

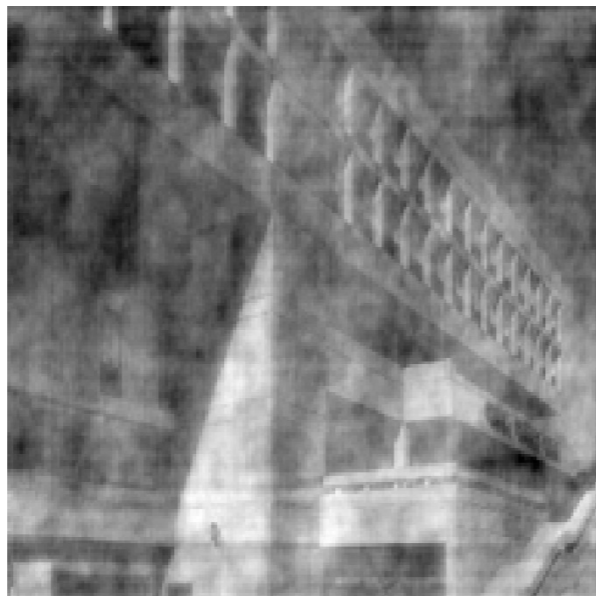
Image 1



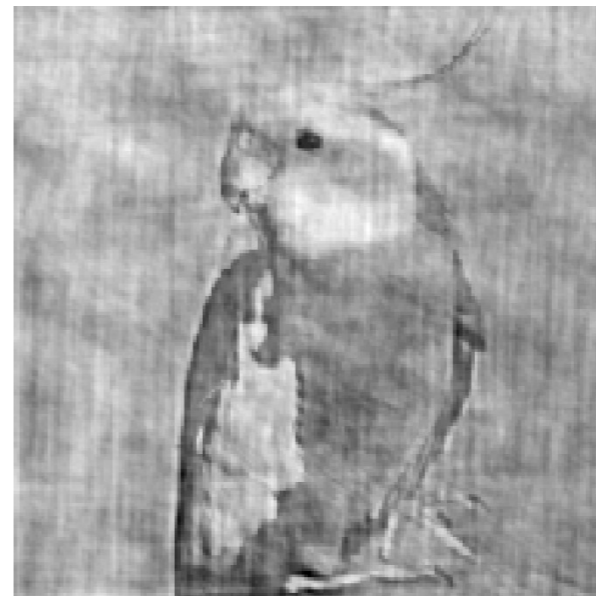
Image 2



Magnitude(Image2), Phase(Image1)



Magnitude(Image1), Phase(Image2)



What's stored in the phase?

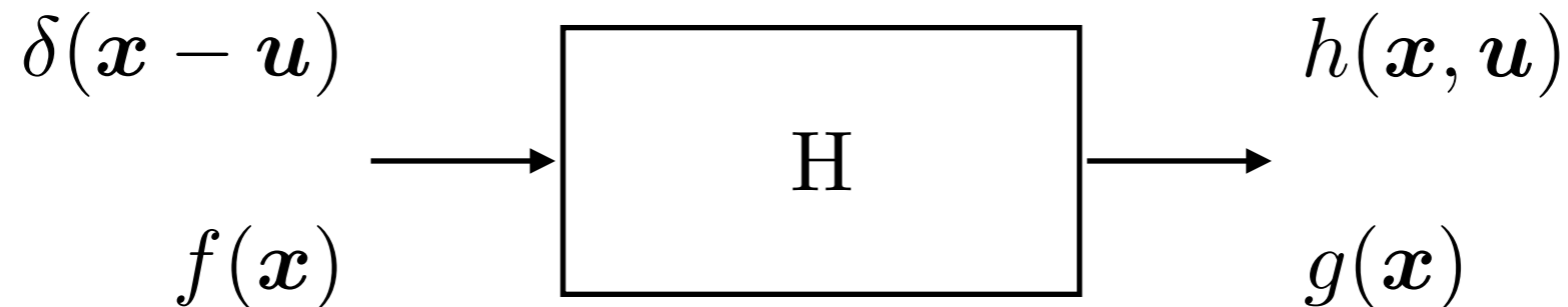
Outline

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Impulse Responses of Linear Systems

Recall: It is always that $f(\mathbf{x}) = (\delta * f)(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$.

Setting: Consider a linear (not necessarily shift-invariant) system H .



Exercise: Show that $g(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$.

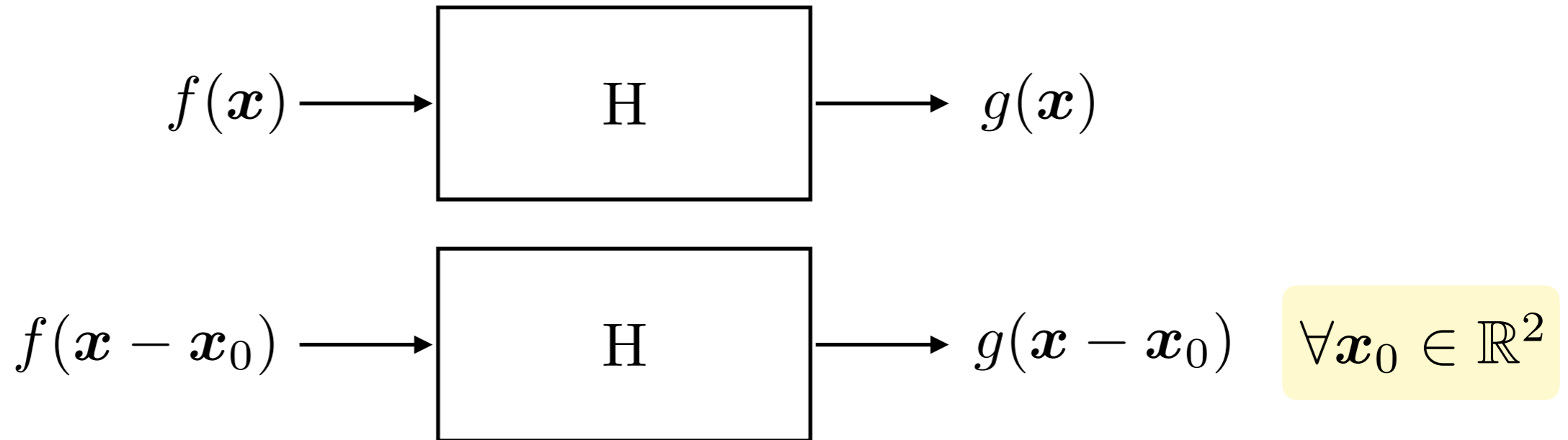
$$g(\mathbf{x}) = H\{f(\mathbf{x})\} = H\left\{\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}\right\}$$
$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})H\{\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u})\} d\mathbf{u} \quad (H \text{ is linear})$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

The output of a system is the input integrated against the impulse response.

Linear, Shift-Invariant Systems (LSI)

Definition: A linear system H is **shift-invariant** if and only if shifted inputs correspond to shifted outputs.



$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$g(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{x}_0)h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{x}_0) d\mathbf{u}$$

$$\implies h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u}) = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{x}_0)$$

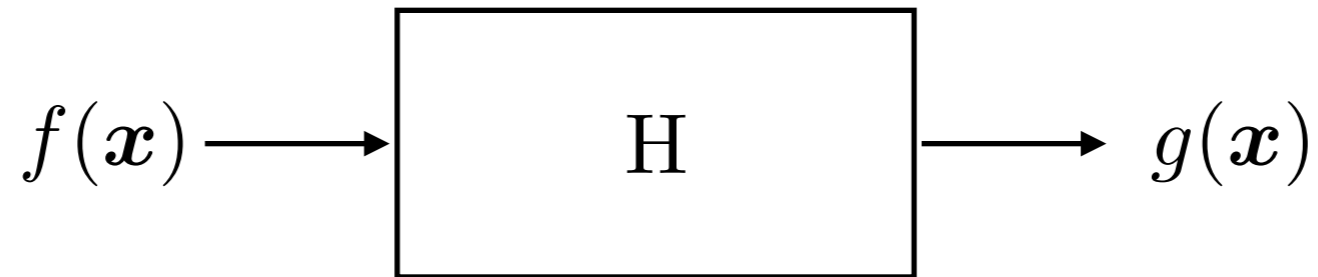
$$\forall \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

In particular, $h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{0}) = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0)$

(set $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{0}$)

Linear, Shift-Invariant Systems (LSI)

Definition: A linear system H is **shift-invariant** if and only if shifted inputs correspond to shifted outputs.



$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

LSI systems are realized by convolutions!

$$h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{0}) = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0) \text{ for any } \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_0 \in \mathbb{R}^2$$

$$\text{Define } h_{\text{LSI}}(\mathbf{x}) = h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{0})$$

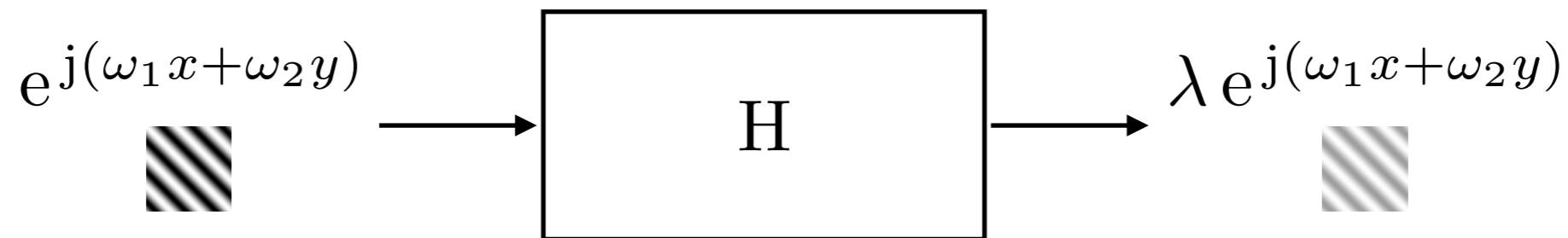
$$\implies h(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{u}) = h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}, \mathbf{0}) = h_{\text{LSI}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u})$$

We will just write h for h_{LSI}

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = H\{f(\mathbf{x})\} = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h_{\text{LSI}}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u} = (f * h_{\text{LSI}})(\mathbf{x})$$

Linear, Shift-Invariant Systems (LSI)

Theorem: Complex exponentials $e^{j(\omega_1 x + \omega_2 y)}$ are *eigenfunctions* of the LSI system H with *eigenvalue* $\lambda = \lambda(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \hat{h}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$.



Proof:

$$\begin{aligned} H\{e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}}\} &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} h(\mathbf{u}) e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u})} d\mathbf{u} \\ &= e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} h(\mathbf{u}) e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{u}} d\mathbf{u} \\ &= \hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}} \end{aligned}$$

2D Convolutions

- 2D Convolution integral

$$\begin{aligned}(f * h)(x, y) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(u, v) h(x - u, y - v) \, du \, dv \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} h(u, v) f(x - u, y - v) \, du \, dv = (h * f)(x, y)\end{aligned}$$

- Convolution theorem

$$(f * h)(\mathbf{x}) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) \hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega})$$

The Fourier transform converts convolutions into multiplications!

Proof of the Convolution Theorem

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u}$$

$\updownarrow \mathcal{F}$

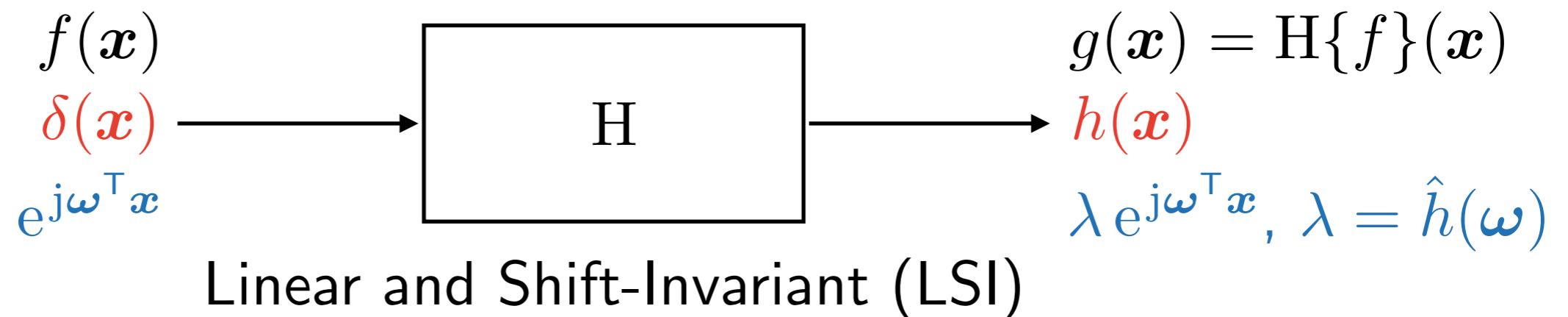
$$\hat{g}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u}) d\mathbf{u} \right) e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}} d\mathbf{x}$$

$$= \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})h(\mathbf{v})e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T(\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v})} d\mathbf{u} \right) d\mathbf{v} \quad (\text{change of variables } \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{x} - \mathbf{u})$$

$$= \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} f(\mathbf{u})e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{u}} d\mathbf{u} \right) \left(\int_{\mathbb{R}^2} h(\mathbf{v})e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{v}} d\mathbf{v} \right) \quad (e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T(\mathbf{u}+\mathbf{v})} = e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{u}} e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{v}})$$

$$= \hat{f}(\boldsymbol{\omega})\hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega})$$

Frequency Responses of LSI Systems



What is the frequency response of this system?

- The frequency response is $\hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega})$

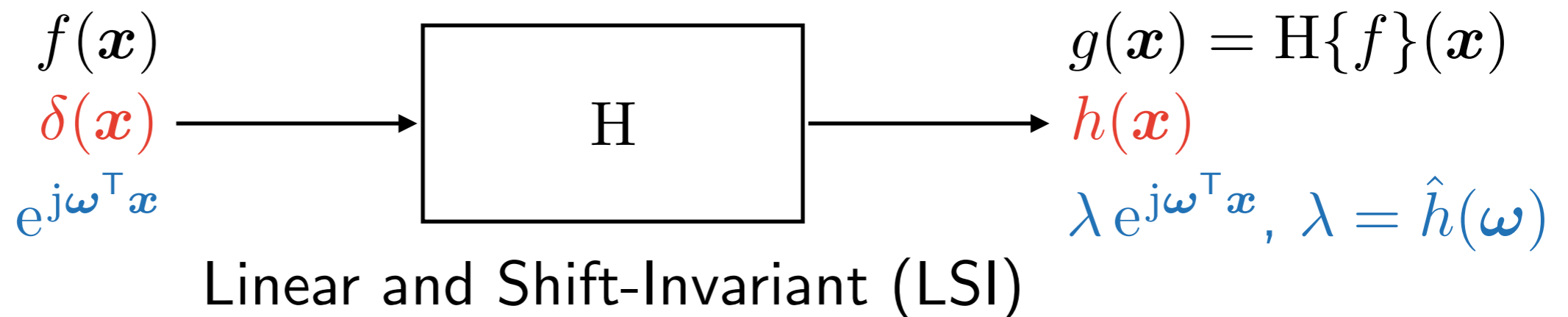
Controls notation: $H(j\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega})$

$H(\boldsymbol{s})$, $\boldsymbol{s} \in \mathbb{C}^2$, is the **transfer function**

$$H(\boldsymbol{s}) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} h(\boldsymbol{x}) e^{-\boldsymbol{s}^T \boldsymbol{x}} d\boldsymbol{x} \quad (\text{2D two-sided Laplace transform})$$

How do we identify the frequency response of a system?

Identification of the Frequency Response



- Method 1: Eigenfunction property

Excite the system with a pure frequency

$$\hat{h}(\omega) = \lambda = \frac{H\{e^{j\omega^T x}\}}{e^{j\omega^T x}}$$

- Method 2: From the impulse response

Excite the system with an impulse

$$\hat{h}(\omega) = \widehat{H\{\delta\}}(\omega)$$

- Method 3: From an arbitrary input and output

Excite the system with an arbitrary input

$$g(x) = (f * h)(x) \implies \hat{g}(\omega) = \hat{f}(\omega)\hat{h}(\omega)$$

$$\implies \hat{h}(\omega) = \frac{\hat{g}(\omega)}{\hat{f}(\omega)}$$

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Modeling of Optical Systems

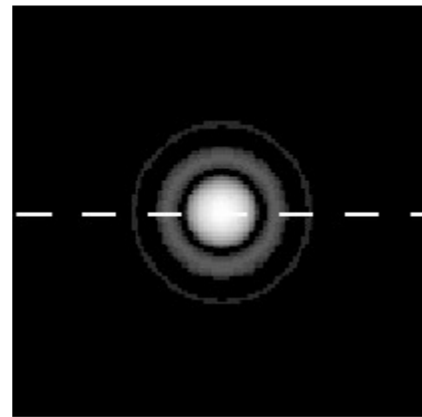
$$f(\mathbf{x}) \longrightarrow \text{Optical System} \longrightarrow g(\mathbf{x}) = (h * f)(\mathbf{x})$$

$h(\mathbf{x}) = h(x, y)$: Point Spread Function (PSF)

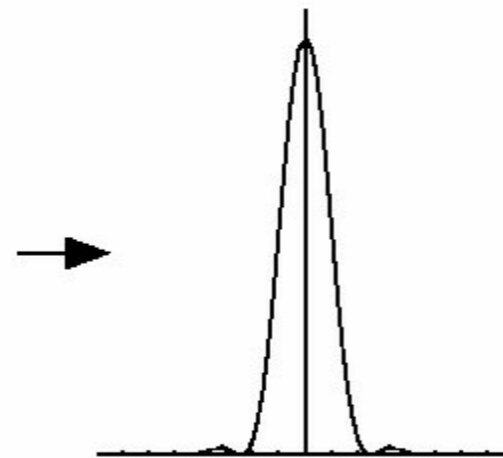
Diffraction-limited optics = LSI system

microscopes,
telescopes,
cameras, etc.

- Aberration-free point spread function
“ideal”



Airy Disk



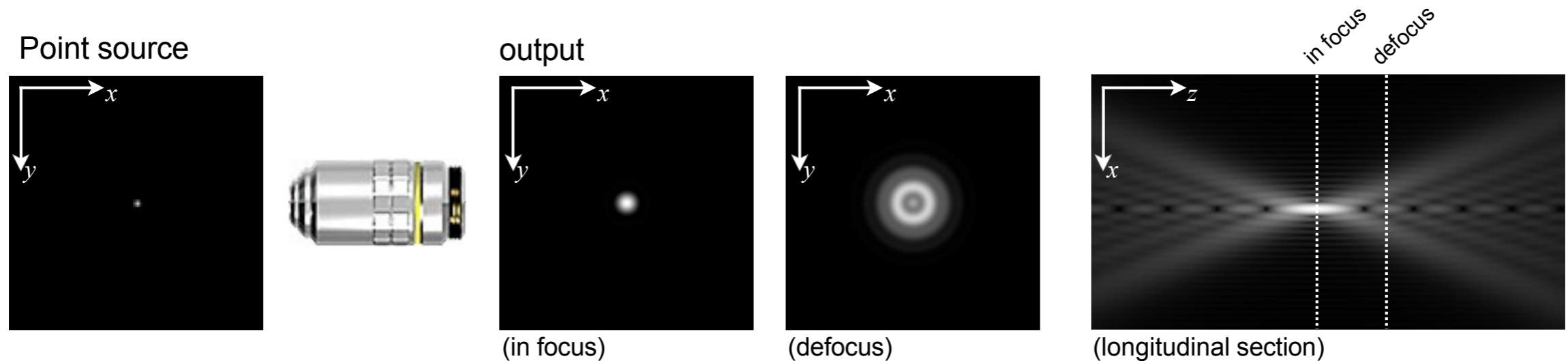
Radial Profile

Modeling of Optical Systems

$$f(\mathbf{x}) \longrightarrow \text{Optical System} \longrightarrow g(\mathbf{x}) = (h * f)(\mathbf{x})$$

$h(\mathbf{x}) = h(x, y)$: Point Spread Function (PSF)

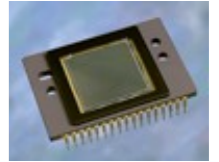
- Effect of misfocus



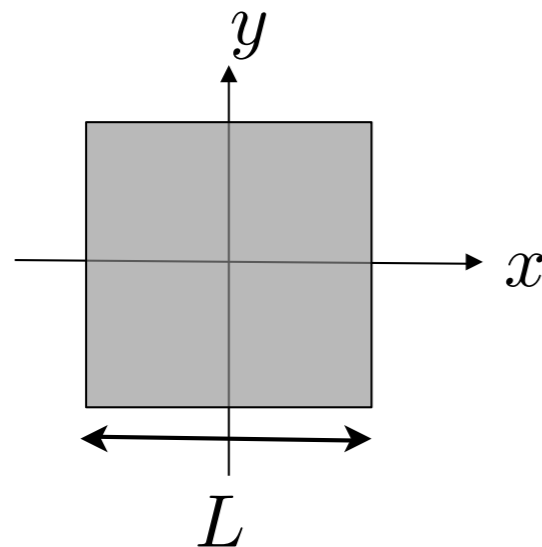
Need to be mindful of the focal length of your optical system

More Examples of System Responses

- CCD (= digital) camera



Impulse response = sampling aperture = photosite = pixel integration area



$$h(x, y) = \frac{1}{L^2} \text{rect} \left(\frac{x}{L} \right) \text{rect} \left(\frac{y}{L} \right)$$

\mathcal{F}

$$\hat{h}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \text{sinc} \left(\frac{L\omega_1}{2\pi} \right) \text{sinc} \left(\frac{L\omega_2}{2\pi} \right)$$

The resolution of CCD cameras is $L \times L$

This system takes **local averages** over $L \times L$ squares

More Examples of System Responses

- Motion blur

time-varying
position

Hypothesis: “system” comes from the motion of the camera: $\mathbf{x}_0(t)$

$$g(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T f(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0(t)) dt$$

Is this system shift-invariant?

Shift-invariant, but not time-invariant

What is the impulse response?

$$h(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0(t)) dt$$

\mathcal{F}

$$\hat{h}(\boldsymbol{\omega}) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T e^{-j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}_0(t)} dt$$

What is the frequency response?

Motion Blur Example

- Uniform motion $\mathbf{x}_0(t) = (t/T, 0)$

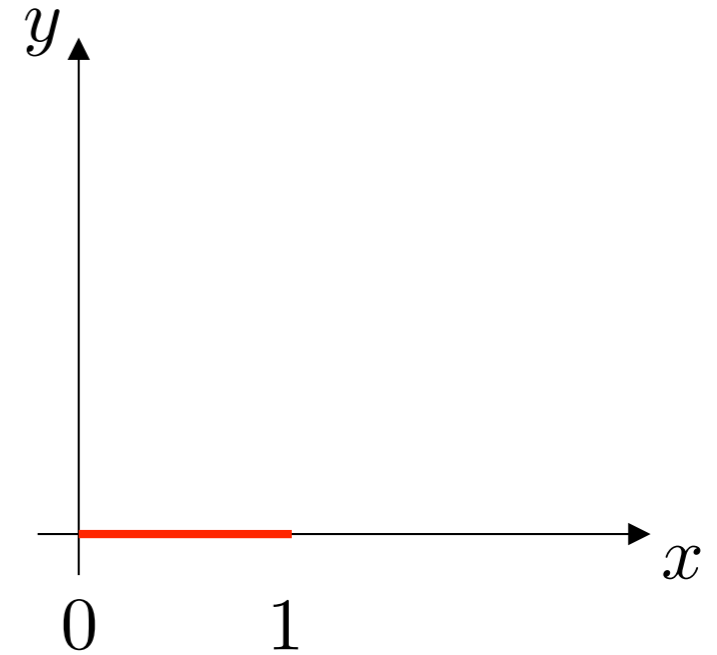
$$h(x, y) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \delta \left(x - \frac{t}{T}, y \right) dt$$

$$= \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \delta \left(x - \frac{t}{T} \right) \delta(y) dt$$

$$= \delta(y) \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \delta \left(x - \frac{t}{T} \right) dt$$

$$= \delta(y) \frac{1}{T} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \text{rect} \left(\frac{t}{T} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \delta \left(x - \frac{t}{T} \right) dt$$

$$= \text{rect} \left(x - \frac{1}{2} \right) \delta(y) \xleftrightarrow{\mathcal{F}} \hat{h}(\omega_1, \omega_2) = e^{-j\omega_1/2} \text{sinc} \left(\frac{\omega_1}{2\pi} \right)$$



The impulse response is a “windowed” ideal line

Motion Blur Example

Can we use this to understand photographing a moving car?



Change the frame of reference to the car

This is how motion blurs are implemented in Photoshop, GIMP, etc.

Summary

- Analog images are modeled as functions $f(x, y)$ of the two spatial variables x and y .
- These functions are assumed to have finite energy: $f \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$. It is convenient to view them as points in a vector space with an inner product.
- An image-processing operator (or system) is a mapping $H : L^2(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^2)$.
- The complex exponentials $e^{j\boldsymbol{\omega}^T \mathbf{x}}$ are the eigenfunctions of LSI systems. They are $(2\pi/\|\boldsymbol{\omega}\|_2)$ -periodic plane waves that propagate in the direction $\boldsymbol{\omega}$.
- The 2D Fourier transform of an image reveals its spatial frequency content. The Fourier phase contains the most relevant perceptual information (contours).
- The 2D Fourier transform is very similar to the 1D one and therefore inherits essentially the same properties.
- The 2D Fourier transform of a separable image $f(x, y) = f_1(x)f_2(y)$ is determined using 1D transforms only.
- LSI systems are realized by convolutions.
- Analog LSI systems are completely characterized by their impulse response (point-spread function or sampling aperture) $h(x, y) = H\{\delta\}(x, y)$, or, equivalently, by their frequency response $\hat{h}(\omega_1, \omega_2)$.