

Lecture Number – 10  
 Program S1, Regular, DTE FTUI  
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## Representation & Description

## Representation

### Chain Code

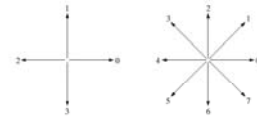
- represent a boundary by a connected sequence of straight-line segment of specified length and direction
- based on 4-or- 8 connectivity of the segments
- can be generated following a boundary in a clockwise direction and assigning a direction to the segments connecting every pair of pixels
  - is unacceptable for two principal reasons:
    - (1) too long code length
    - (2) the shape boundary can be disturbed by noise or imperfect segmentation
  - resample the boundary by selecting a larger grid spacing

## Normalize with respect to the starting point

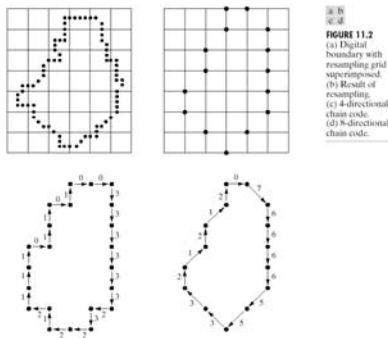
- Treat the chain code as a circular sequence of direction numbers
- Redefine the starting point
- Normalize for rotation by using the first difference of the chain code (counting the number of direction changes)

## Direction Numbers

FIGURE 11.1  
 Direction numbers for (a) 4-directional chain code, and (b) 8-directional chain code.



## Digital Boundary



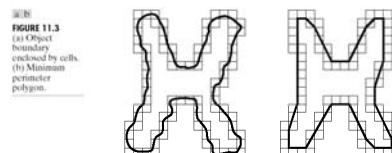
## Polygonal approximations

- The goal: capture the “essence” of the boundary shape with the fewest possible polygonal segments
- Minimum perimeter polygons
  - Find minimum perimeter polygons: shrink
  - If each cell encompasses only one point---the error in each cell would be  $\sqrt{2}d$
- Merging techniques
  - Merge points along a boundary until the least square error line fit of the points merged exceeds a preset threshold
  - When the above condition occurs, repeat the procedure
  - At the end: the intersection of adjacent line segments form the vertices of the polygon

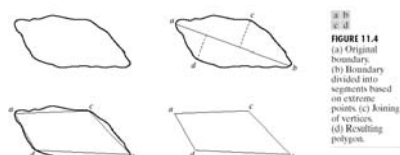
## Splitting techniques

- Criterion for splitting: the maximum perpendicular distance from a boundary segment to the line joining its end points not exceed a preset threshold
  - A **close boundary**: the best starting points are the two farthest points

## Object Boundary



## Boundary to Polygon



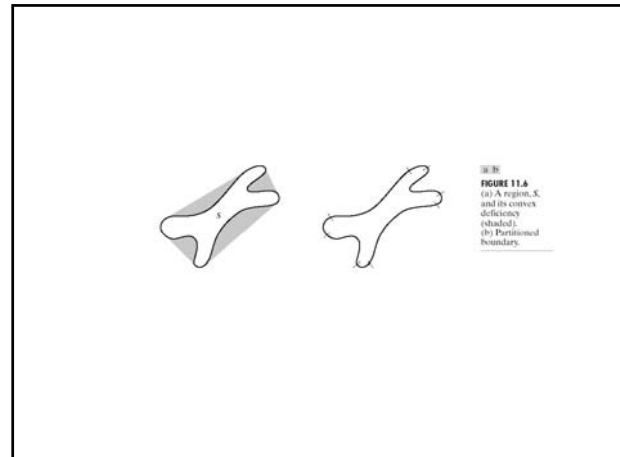
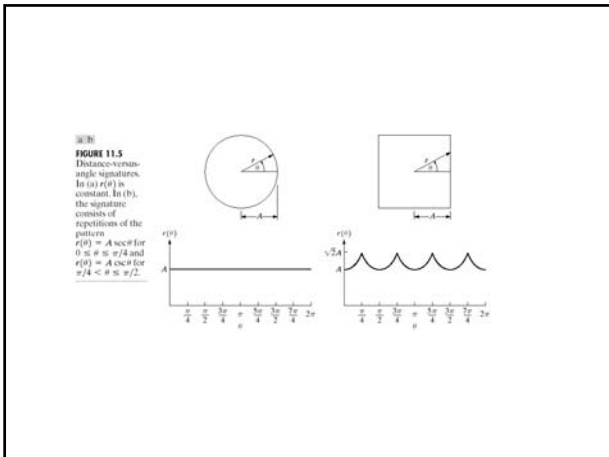
## Signatures

- a 1-D functional representation of a boundary and may be generated in
  - plot the distance from the centroid to the boundary as a function of angle
- reduce the boundary representation from 2-D to a 1-D function
- **are invariant to translation, but depend on rotation and scaling**
  - **solution to rotation invariant**
    - normalize with respect to rotation can be achieved by selecting the same starting point, regardless of the shapes orientation
    - select the point on the eigen axis that is farthest from the centroid
    - obtain the chain code, and assume that the coding is coarse enough so that rotation does not affect its circularity

## Solution to scaling

- based on uniformity in scaling with respect to both axes and that sampling is taken at equal interval of  $\theta$  (changes in size of a shape results in changes in the amplitude value of the corresponding signature)
  - scale all functions so that they always span the same range of values [0,1]
- The advantage of this method: simplicity
- The disadvantage of this method: depending on maximum and minimum values (especially in noisy shape: dependence from object to object)
  - divide each sample by the variances of the signature
  - remove the dependence on size while preserving the fundamental shape of the waveform

- another way to generate signature
  - transverse the boundary and, corresponding to each point on the boundary, plot the angle between a line tangent to the boundary at that point and a reference line
  - would carry information about basic shape characteristics
- slope density function as a signature
  - is a histogram of tangent-angle values
  - correspond to sections of the boundary with constant tangent angles



## Boundary segments

- decompose a boundary into segments
- reduce the boundary's complexity and simplify the description process
  - is attractive when the boundary contains one or more significant concavities
  - convex hull and convex deficiency
  - digital boundaries tend to be irregular because of digitization, noise, and variation in segmentation

## Irregular digital boundary

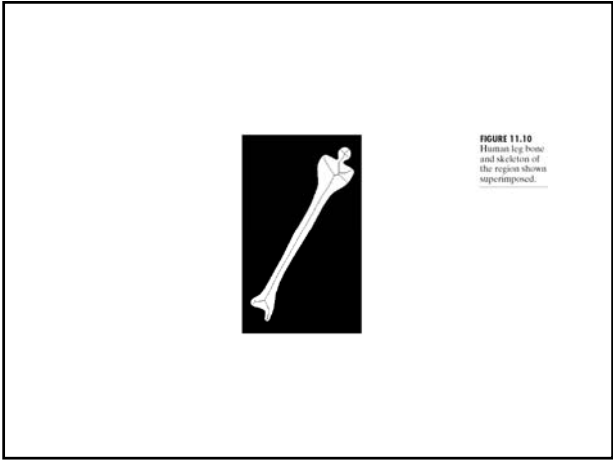
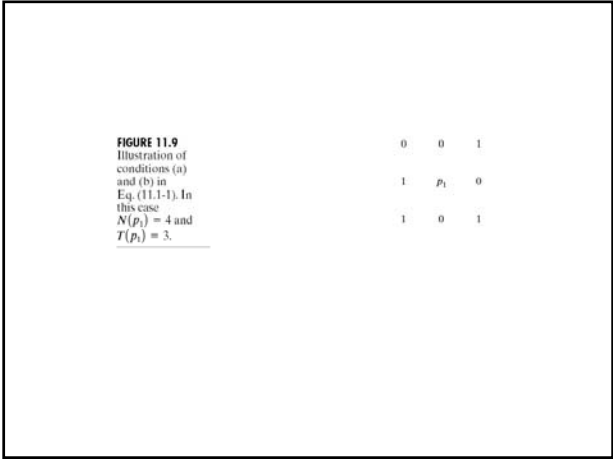
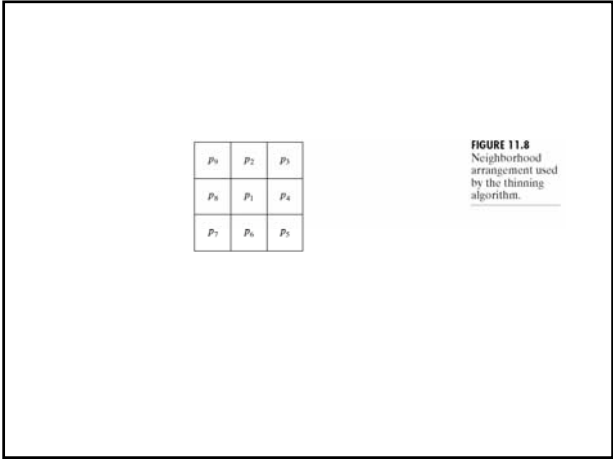
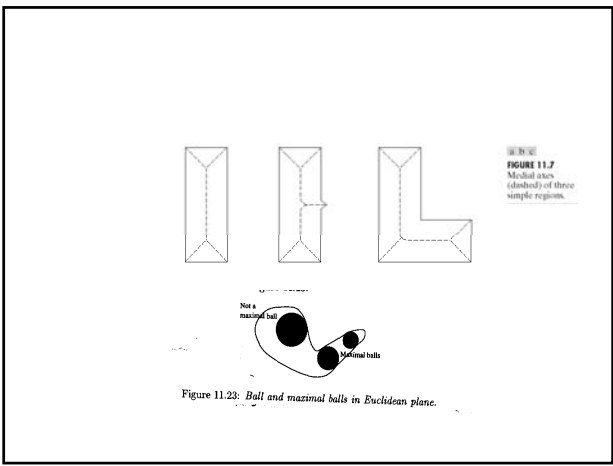
- cause convex deficiency have small, meaningless components scattered randomly throughout the boundary
- **resolution**: smooth a boundary prior to partitioning
  - 1) transverse the boundary and replace the coordinate of each pixel (for small irregularities, but it is time consuming and difficult to control)
  - 2) use polygon approximation prior to finding the convex deficiency

## Skeletons

- reduce to a graph by a skeleton to represent a shape
- Obtain the skeleton of a region via a thinning
- morphology skeleton cannot keep the skeleton connected
- Def. of a skeleton
  - may be defined via the medial axis transformation (MAT)
  - The MAT of a region  $R$  with border  $B$ 
    - For each point  $p$  in  $R$ , find its closet neighbor in border  $B$
    - "Closest" depends on Euclidean distance
    - yield an intuitively pleasing skeleton
    - computation expensive
  - Maximum disk

- thinning algorithm iteratively delete edge points of a region subject to the three constraints:
  - (1) does not remove endpoints;
  - (2) does not break connectivity;
  - (3) does not cause excessive erosion of the region
- two steps applied to the contour points of the given region
  - (1) flag a contour point for deletion based on four conditions (a) (b) (c) (d): If one or more of conditions (a) –(d) are violated, the value is not changed, otherwise flag for deletion; the point is not deleted until all border points have been processed

- (2) is applied to the resulting data based on (a) (b) (c') (d')
- $N(p_1)$ : The number of nonzero neighbors of  $p_1$
- $T(p_1)$ : the number of 0-1 transitions in the ordered sequence  $p_2, p_3, \dots, p_8, p_9$ 
  - (a): end point
  - (b): 1 pixel thick
  - (c) (d)  $p_4=0$  (east); or  $p_6=0$  (south) or  $p_2=0$  and  $p_8=0$  "north west" corner point



## Boundary descriptor

**Some simple boundary descriptor**

- the length for a chain code curve with unit spacing
  - the **diameter of a boundary** B is defined as  $Diam(B) = \max_{i,j} [D(p_i, p_j)]$
  - **major axis**: constructed from the diameter and the orientation of a line segment connecting two extreme points
  - **minor axis**: line perpendicular major axis
  - **basic rectangle**: the box passing through the outer four points of intersection of the boundary
  - **eccentricity**: the ratio of the major to the minor axis
- **curvature**: the rate of change of slope (the difference between the slope of adjacent boundary segments)

- convex segment: the change in slope at p is nonnegative
- Concave segment
- A nearly straight segment: slope change < 10°
- Corner point: if the change exceeds 90°

11.2.2 Shape numbers

- based on the 4-direction code
- the first difference of smallest magnitude
- the order n of a shape number is defined as the number of digits
  - n is even for a closed boundary
  - depend on the orientation of the grid
- Desired shape number - the rectangle of n whose eccentricity best approximation that of the best rectangle; For example n=12,

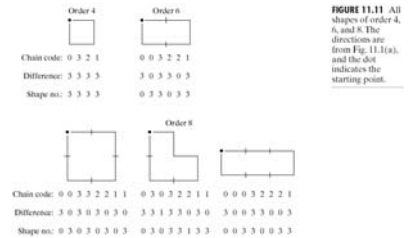


FIGURE 11.11 All shapes of order 4, 6, and 8. The directions are from Fig. 11.1(a), and the dot indicates the starting point.

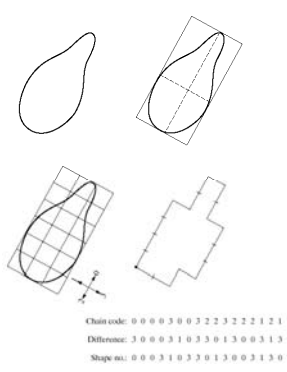


FIGURE 11.12 Steps in the generation of a shape number.

## Fourier descriptor

- represent a boundary as the sequence of coordinates  $S(k)=[x(k),y(k)]$
- each coordinate pair can be treated as complex number so that  $s(k)=x(k)+jy(k)$
- reduce a 2-D to 1-D problem
- the Fourier descriptor of the boundary: the complex coefficients  $a(u)$
- the inverse Fourier transform of these coefficients restores  $s(k)$  (11.2-4)  $S(k) = \sum_{u=-\infty}^{\infty} a(u)e^{j2\pi u k}$ 
  - only first P coefficients are used (11.2-5);  $S(k) = \sum_{u=0}^{P-1} a(u)e^{j2\pi u k}$
- directly insensitive to geometrical changes: translation, rotation and scaling
  - translation has no effect on the descriptor except for  $u=0$
- Results depend on the order in which points are processed

- Insensitive to starting point
- Table 11.1 summarizes the Fourier descriptors for a boundary sequence  $s(k)$

Statistical moments

- Describe a shape quantitatively by using statistical moment
- represent a line segment as a 1-D function  $g$  is obtained by
  - connecting the two end points of the segment
  - rotating the line segment until its is horizontal
- treat the amplitude of  $g$  as a discrete random variable  $v$  and form an amplitude histogram
  - The nth moment of  $v$  about its mean is  $\mu_n(v) = \sum_{i=1}^M v_i^n p(v_i)$
  - The second moment measures the spread of the curve about the mean value
  - The third moment measures its symmetry

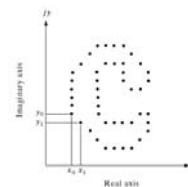
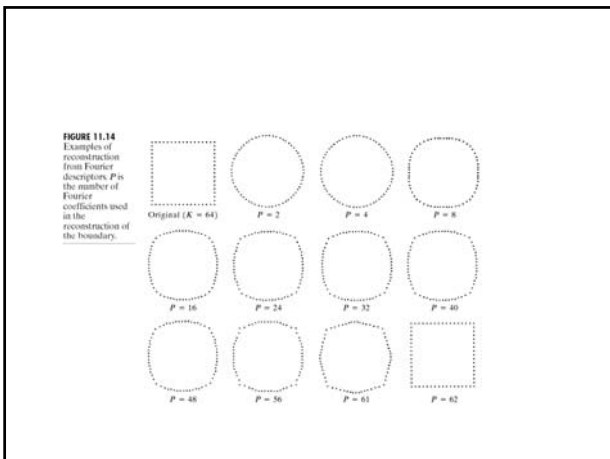
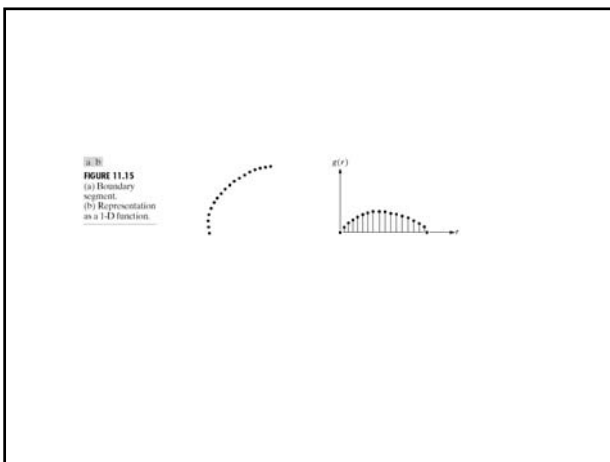


FIGURE 11.13 A digital boundary and its representation as a complex sequence. The points  $(x_0, y_0)$  and  $(x_1, y_1)$  shown are (arbitrarily) the first two points in the sequence.



Transformation	Boundary	Fourier Descriptor
Identity	$s(k)$	$a(k)$
Rotation	$s_1(k) = s(k)e^{i\theta}$	$a_1(k) = a(k)e^{i\theta}$
Translation	$s_2(k) = s(k) + \Delta_0$	$a_2(k) = a(k) + \Delta_0 \delta(k)$
Scaling	$s_3(k) = \alpha s(k)$	$a_3(k) = \alpha a(k)$
Starting point	$s_4(k) = s(k - k_0)$	$a_4(k) = a(k) e^{-i\theta_0 k}$

**TABLE 11.1**  
Some basic properties of Fourier descriptors.



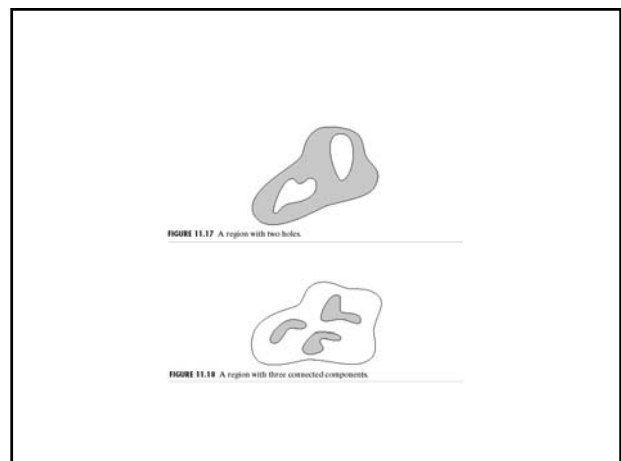
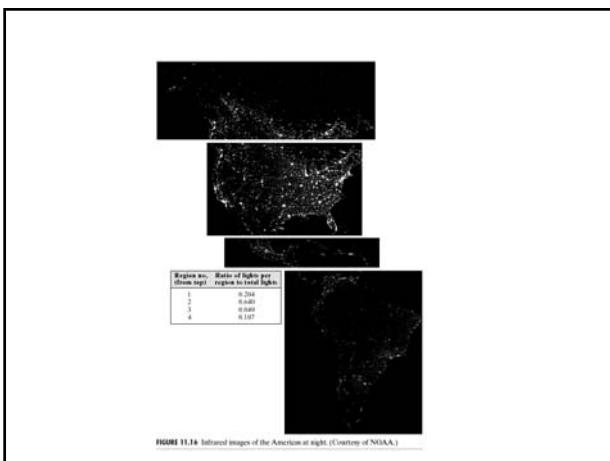
## Regional descriptors

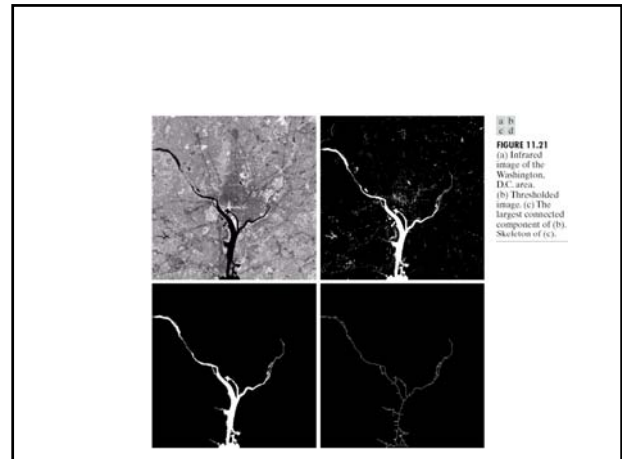
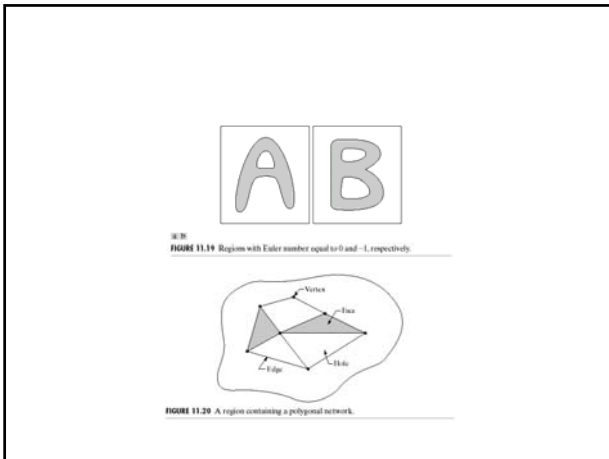
**Simple descriptors**

- Area
- Perimeter
- Compactness
- Maximum and Minimum gray values

**Topological descriptor**

- Properties of a figure that are unaffected by any deformation, as long as there is no tearing or joining of the figure
- Euler number  $E=C-H$
- Euler formula  $V-Q+F=C-H=E$





### Texture

- Provide measures of properties such as smoothness, coarseness, and regularity.
- Three principal approaches used in image processing: statistical, structural, and spectral.
  - statistical**: yield characterization of texture as smooth, coarse, and grainy
  - structural**: based on regularly spaced parallel lines
  - spectral**: based on Fourier spectrum and detect global periodicity

### Statistical

- Use statistical moments of the gray level histogram of an image or region
- The nth moment if z about the mean is:
  - The second moment is a measure of gray-level contrast that can be used to describe relative smoothness
  - The third moment, is measure of the skewness of the histogram
  - The fourth moment is measure of its relative flatness
  - The fifth and higher moments are not so easily related to histogram shape

- Uniformity: maximally uniform
- Average entropy measure: is a measure of variability and is 0 for a constant image
- Disadvantage of measures using only histogram: suffers from the limitation that they carry no information regarding the relative position of pixels with respect to each other
  - Resol: consider not only the distribution of intensities, but also the positions of pixels with nearly equal intensities

- Let P be a position operator and Let A be a kxk matrix whose element is the number of times that points with gray level zj
  - For instance:
 
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$
- Gray-level co-occurrence matrix: is formed by dividing every element of A by n
  - A set of descriptors useful for texture based on co-occurrence
  - Maximum probabilities:  $\max_{i,j} (c_{ij})$
  - Element difference moment of order k:  $\sum_i \sum_j c_{ij} |i-j|^k$
  - Inverse element difference moment of order k:  $\sum_i \sum_j (i-j)^{-k} c_{ij}$
  - Uniformity:  $\sum_i \sum_j c_{ij}^2$
  - Entropy:  $-\sum_i \sum_j c_{ij} \log_2 c_{ij}$

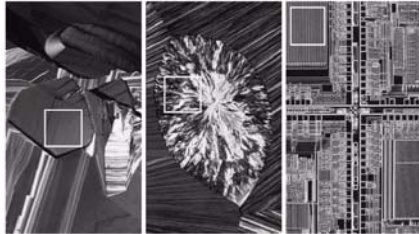


FIGURE 11.22 The white squares mark, from left to right, smooth, coarse, and regular textures. These are optical microscope images of a superconductor, human cholesterol, and a microprocessor. (Courtesy of Dr. Michael W. Davidson, Florida State University.)

TABLE 11.2  
Texture measures  
for the subimages  
shown in  
Fig. 11.22.

Texture	Mean	Standard deviation	R (normalized)	Third moment	Uniformity	Entropy
Smooth	82.64	11.79	0.002	-0.105	0.026	5.434
Coarse	143.56	74.63	0.079	-0.151	0.005	7.783
Regular	99.72	33.73	0.017	0.750	0.013	6.674

Structural approaches

- A rule of the form  $S \rightarrow a$ , which the symbol S may be rewritten as aS
  - Scheme:  $S \rightarrow bA, A \rightarrow cA, A \rightarrow c, A \rightarrow bS, S \rightarrow a$  (B: circle down; c: circle to the left)
    - Generate a string of the form aaabccbaa that corresponds to a 3x3 matrix
- Texture primitive can be used to form complex texture patterns by means of some rules

c<sub>2</sub>

## Spectral approaches

- Use Fourier spectrum to describe the directionality of periodic or almost periodic @-D patterns
- Three features of the Fourier spectrum
  - Prominent peaks: give the principal direction of the texture patterns
  - The location of the peaks in the frequency plane: give the fundamental spatial periods of the patterns
  - Eliminating any periodic components via filtering: leaves non-periodic image elements, which can then be described by statistical techniques

FIGURE 11.23  
(a) Texture primitive.  
(b) Pattern generated by the rule  $S \rightarrow aS$ .  
(c) 2-D texture pattern generated by this and other rules.

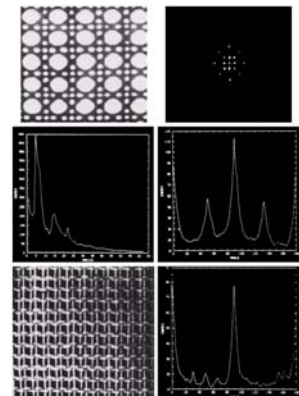
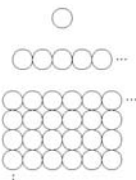
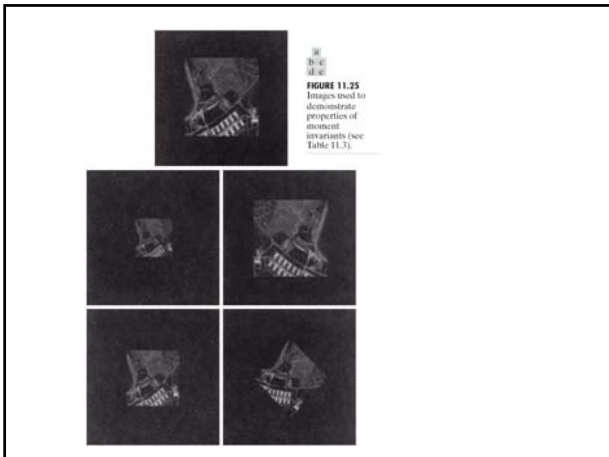


FIGURE 11.24 (a) Image showing periodic texture. (b) Spectrum. (c) Plot of  $S(x)$ . (d) Plot of  $S(y)$ . (e) Another image with a different type of periodic texture. (f) Plot of  $S(x)$ . (Courtesy of Dr. Dragana Brzakovic, University of Tennessee.)



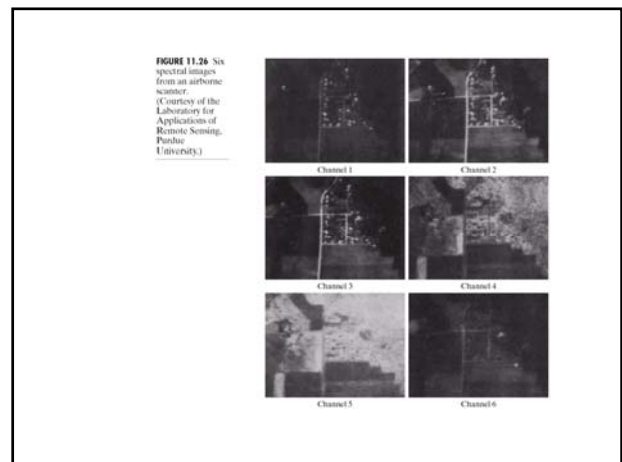


Invariant (Log)	Original	Half Size	Mirrored	Rotated 2°	Rotated 45°
$\mu_0$	6.240	6.226	6.919	6.253	6.318
$\mu_1$	17.180	16.954	19.955	17.270	16.803
$\mu_2$	22.655	23.531	26.680	22.836	19.724
$\mu_3$	22.919	24.236	26.601	23.130	20.437
$\mu_4$	45.749	48.549	53.724	46.136	40.525
$\mu_5$	31.830	32.916	37.134	32.668	29.315
$\mu_6$	45.889	46.543	53.590	46.017	40.470

**TABLE 11.3**  
Moment invariants for the images in Figs. 11.25(a)-(e).

## Moment of 2-D functions

- The moment of 2-D continuous function
  - The central moment 
$$\mu_{pq} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \bar{x})^p (y - \bar{y})^q f(x, y) dx dy$$
  - The central moment of order up to 3
  - The normalized central moments 
$$m_{pq} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x^p y^q f(x, y) dx dy$$
- A set of seven moments
  - Invariant to translation, rotation, and scaling
  - Error caused by digitization

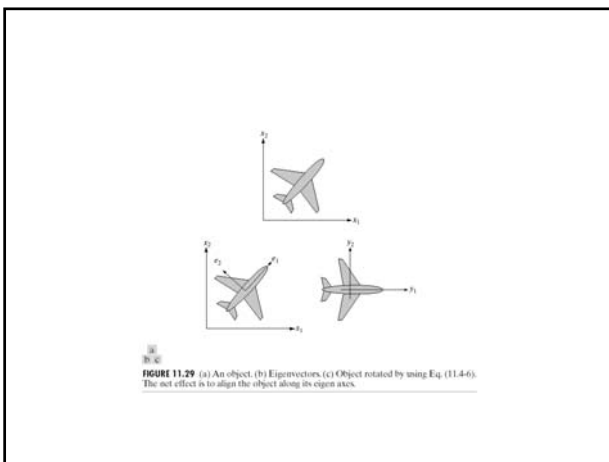
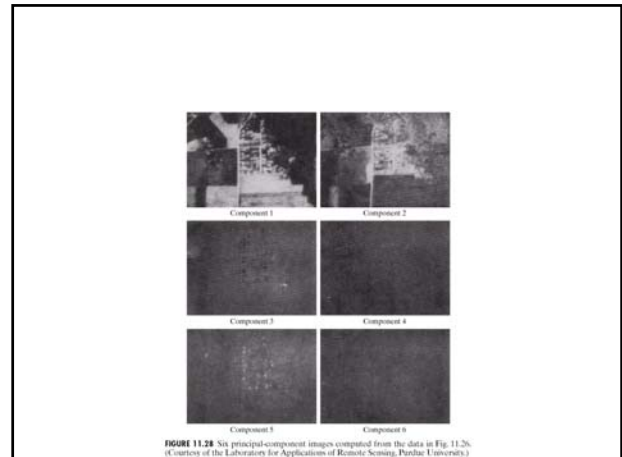
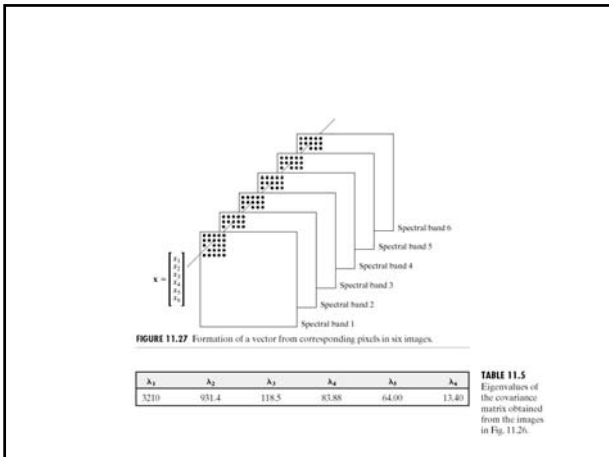


## Use of principal component

- Mean vector
- covariance matrices  $C_x = E\{(x - m_x)(x - m_x)^T\}$
- $C_x$  is real and symmetric, finding a set of n orthonormal eigenvector is possible
  - $X_i$  and  $X_j$  is uncorrelated  $\rightarrow C_{ij} = C_{ji} = 0$
- Use A as a transformation matrix to map  $x$ 's into vectors denoted by  $y$ 's as follows (Hotelling transform):  $y = A(x - m_x)$
- $m_y = E\{y\} = 0$ ;  $C_y = A C_x A^T$
- Reconstruct data for  $x = A^T y + m_x$

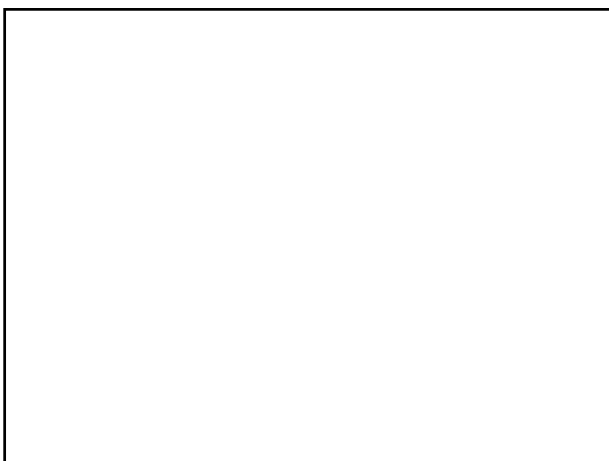
**TABLE 11.4**  
Channel numbers and wavelengths.

Channel	Wavelength band (microns)
1	0.40-0.44
2	0.62-0.66
3	0.66-0.72
4	0.80-1.00
5	1.00-1.40
6	2.00-2.60



## Relational descriptors

- Capture in the form of rewriting rules basic repetitive patterns in a boundary or region
  - The staircase structure
  - Formulate a recursive relationship involving these primitive elements
  - Use the rewriting rules (a)  $S \rightarrow aS$ ; (b)  $A \rightarrow bS$  and (c)  $A \rightarrow b$
- Reduce 2-D positional relations to 1-D form
- Applications of strings to image description
  - Extract line segment from objects of interest
    - Follow the contour of an object and code the results with segments of specified direction and/or length
    - String descriptions are best suited for applications in which connectivity of primitives can be expressed in a head-to-tail



## Tree descriptors

- Definition
  - A unique node: the root
  - The remaining nodes are partitioned into m disjoint sets  $T_1, \dots, T_m$  (subtree)
- The tree frontier: the set of nodes at the bottom of the tree (the leaves)
- Two important information
  - (1) A node stored as a set of words describing the node
    - Identifies an image substructure (region or boundary segment)
  - (2) A node to its neighbor, stored as a set of pointers to those neighbors
    - Defines the physical relationship of that substructure to other substructure

