IMAGE ENHANCEMENT: FILTERING IN THE FREQUENCY DOMAIN

Francesca Pizzorni Ferrarese

Contents

In this lecture we will look at image enhancement in the frequency domain

- Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier
- The Fourier series & the Fourier transform
- Image Processing in the frequency domain
  - Image smoothing
  - Image sharpening
- Fast Fourier Transform

Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier

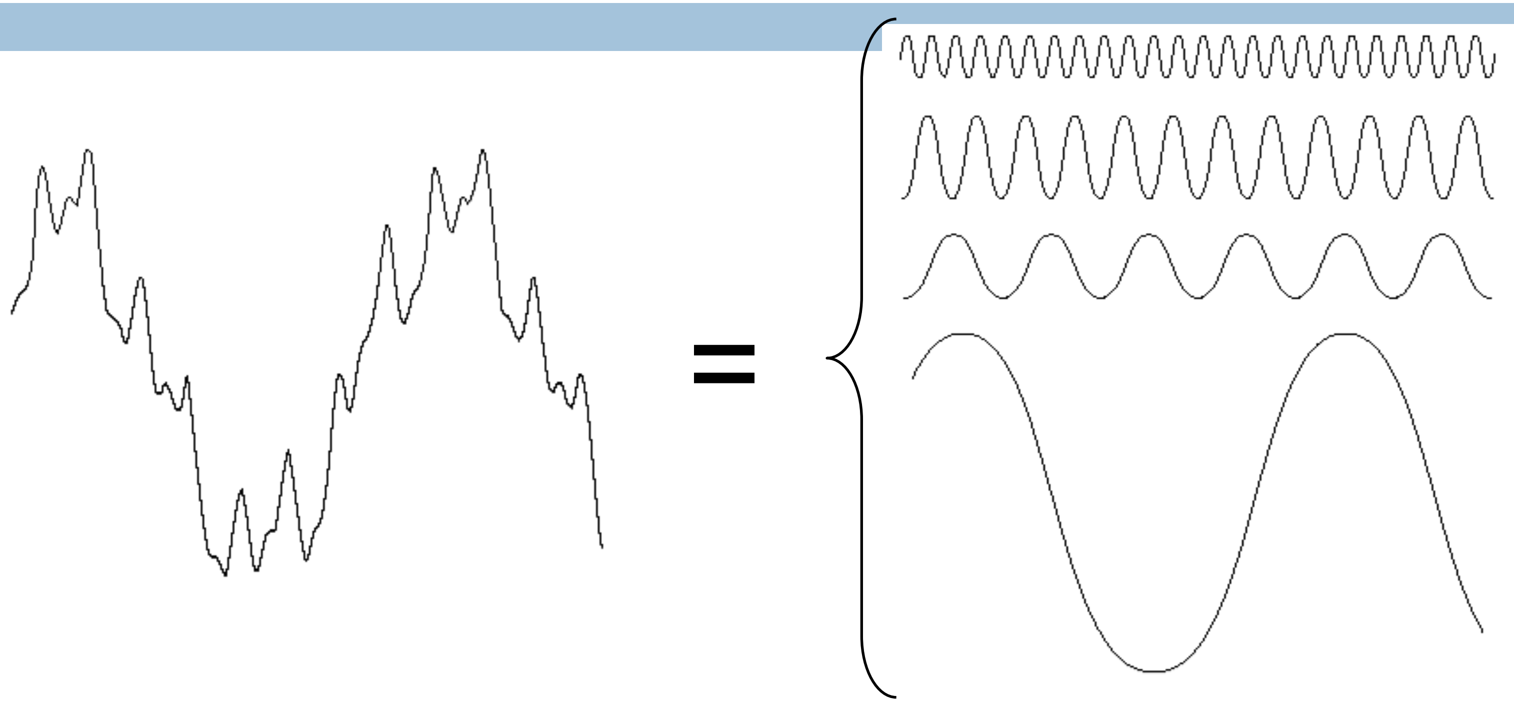
Fourier was born in Auxerre, France in 1768

- Most famous for his work "*La Théorie Analitique de la Chaleur*" published in 1822
- Translated into English in 1878: "*The Analytic Theory of Heat*"

Nobody paid much attention when the work was first published

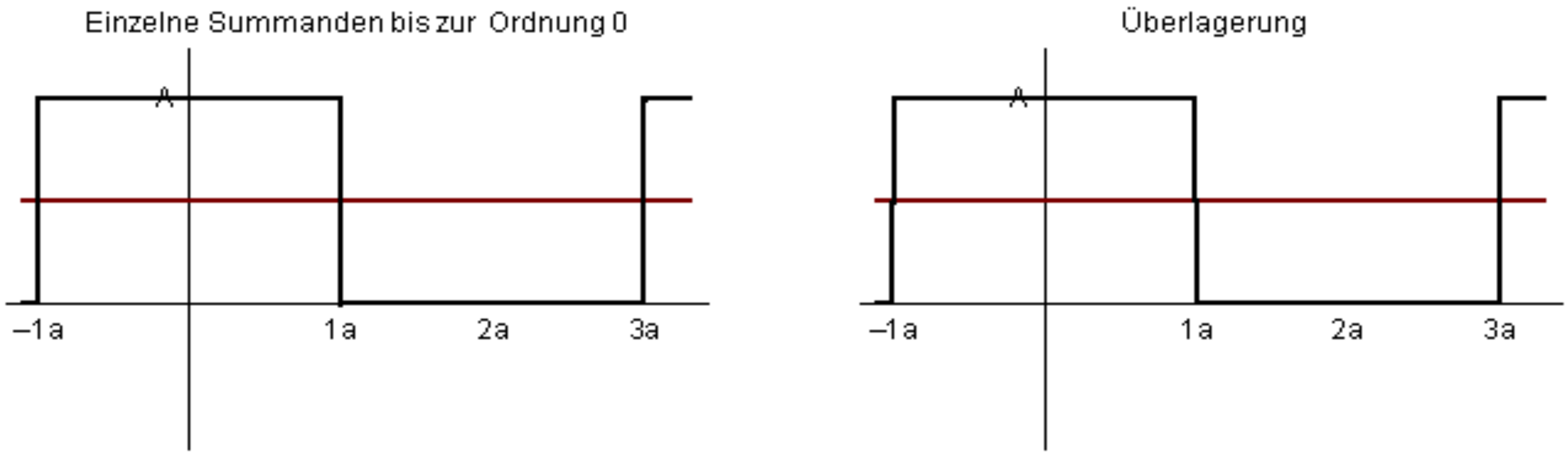
One of the most important mathematical theories in modern engineering

The Big Idea



Any function that periodically repeats itself can be expressed as a sum of sines and cosines of different frequencies each multiplied by a different coefficient – a *Fourier series*

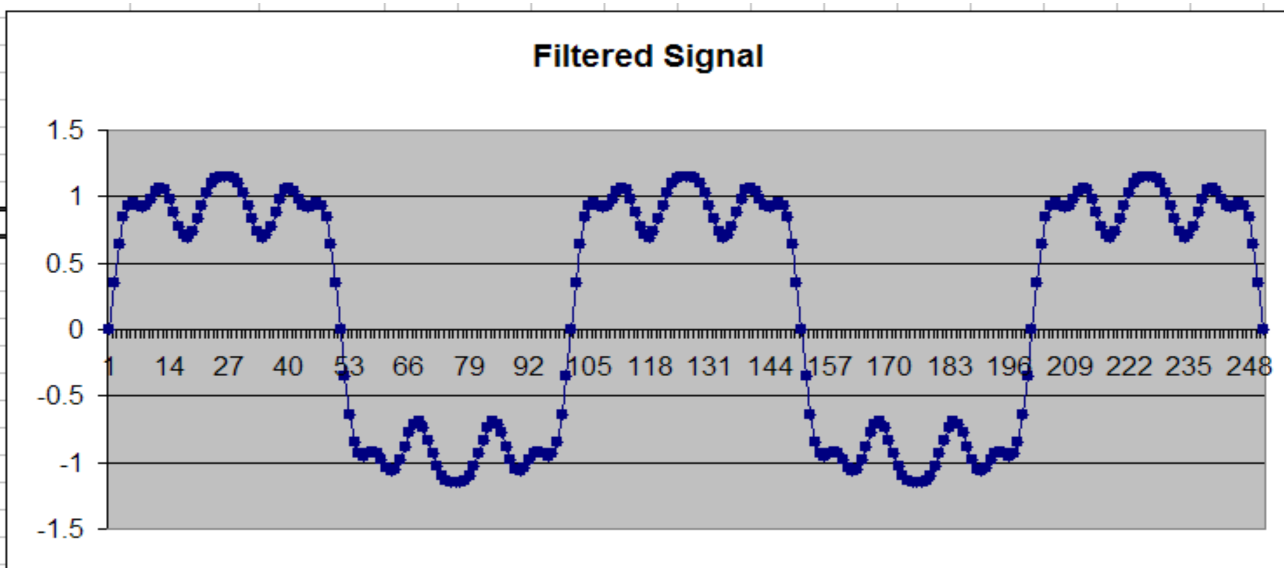
The Big Idea (cont…)

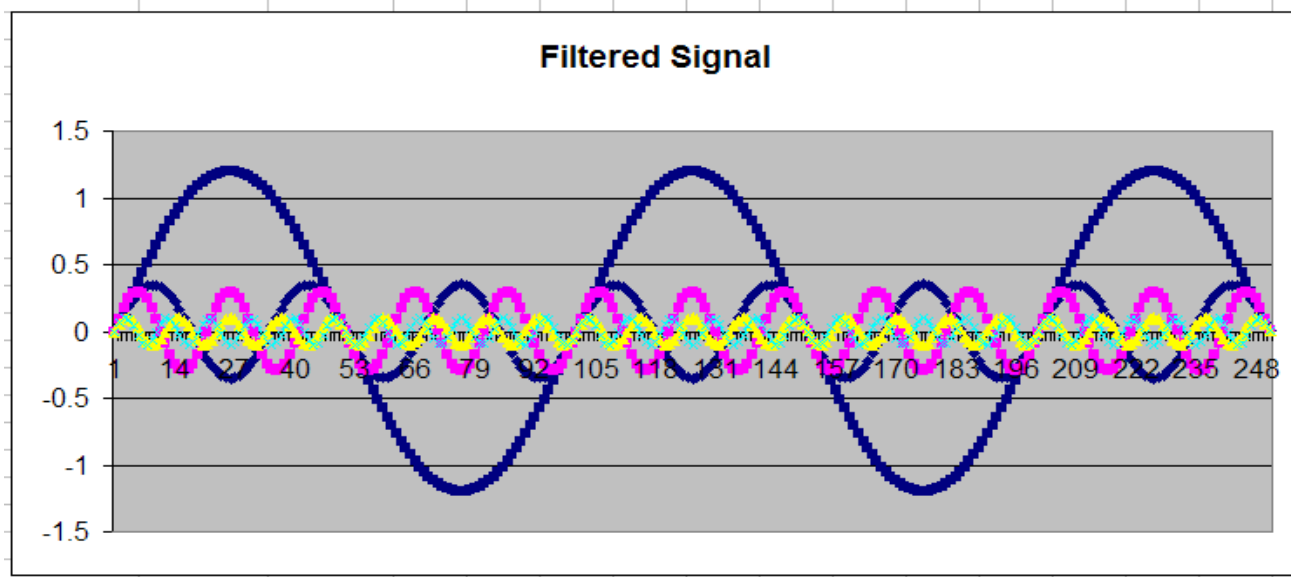


Notice how we get closer and closer to the original function as we add more and more frequencies

Taken from www.tfh-berlin.de/~schwenk/hobby/fourier/Welcome.html

The Big Idea (cont…)





Frequency domain signal processing example in Excel

The Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT)

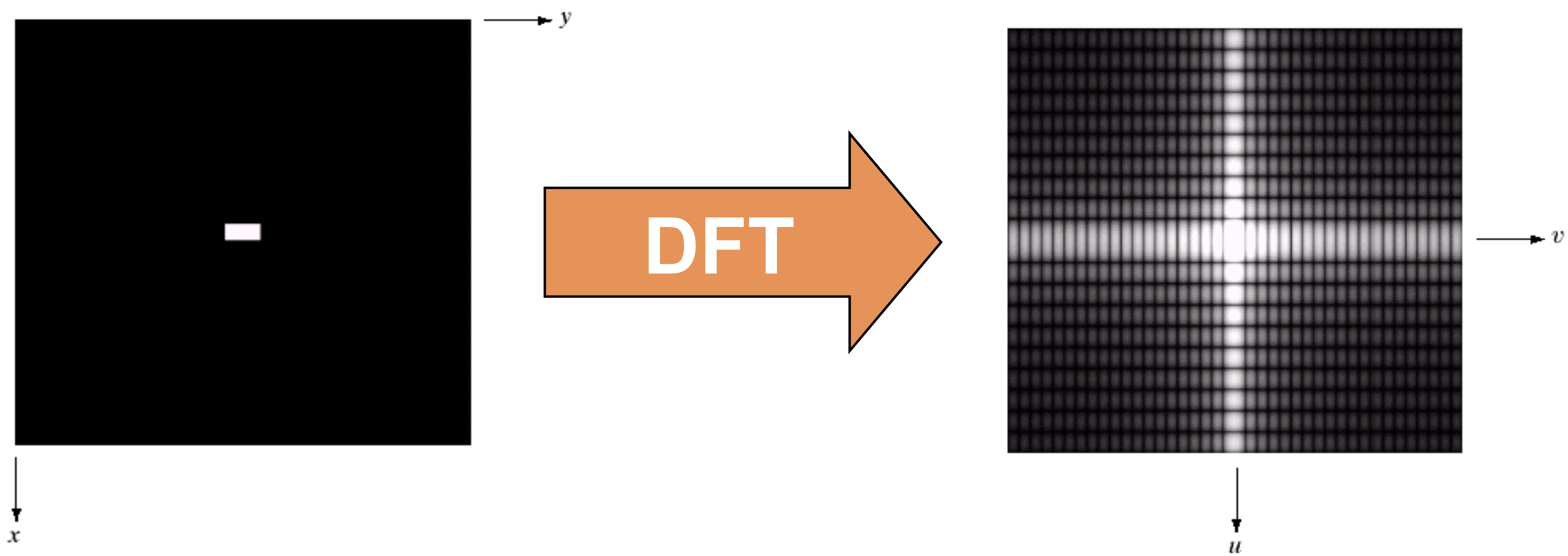
The *Discrete Fourier Transform* of $f(x, y)$, for x = 0, 1, 2…M-1 and y = 0,1,2…N-1, denoted by $F(u, v)$, is given by the equation:

$$F(u,v) = \sum_{x=0}^{M-1} \sum_{y=0}^{N-1} f(x,y) e^{-j2\pi(ux/M + vy/N)}$$

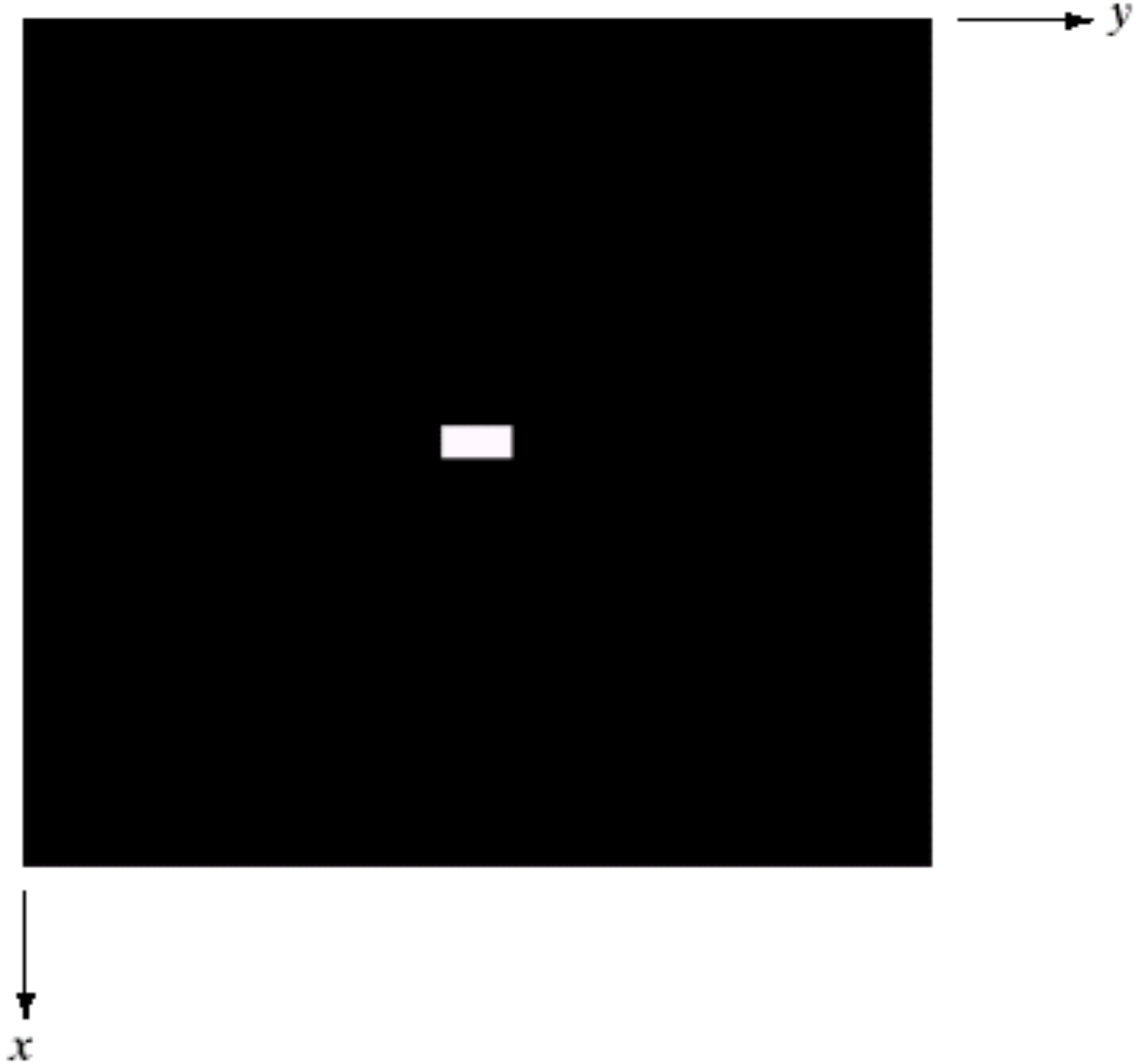
for u = 0, 1, 2…M-1 and v = 0, 1, 2…N-1.

DFT & Images

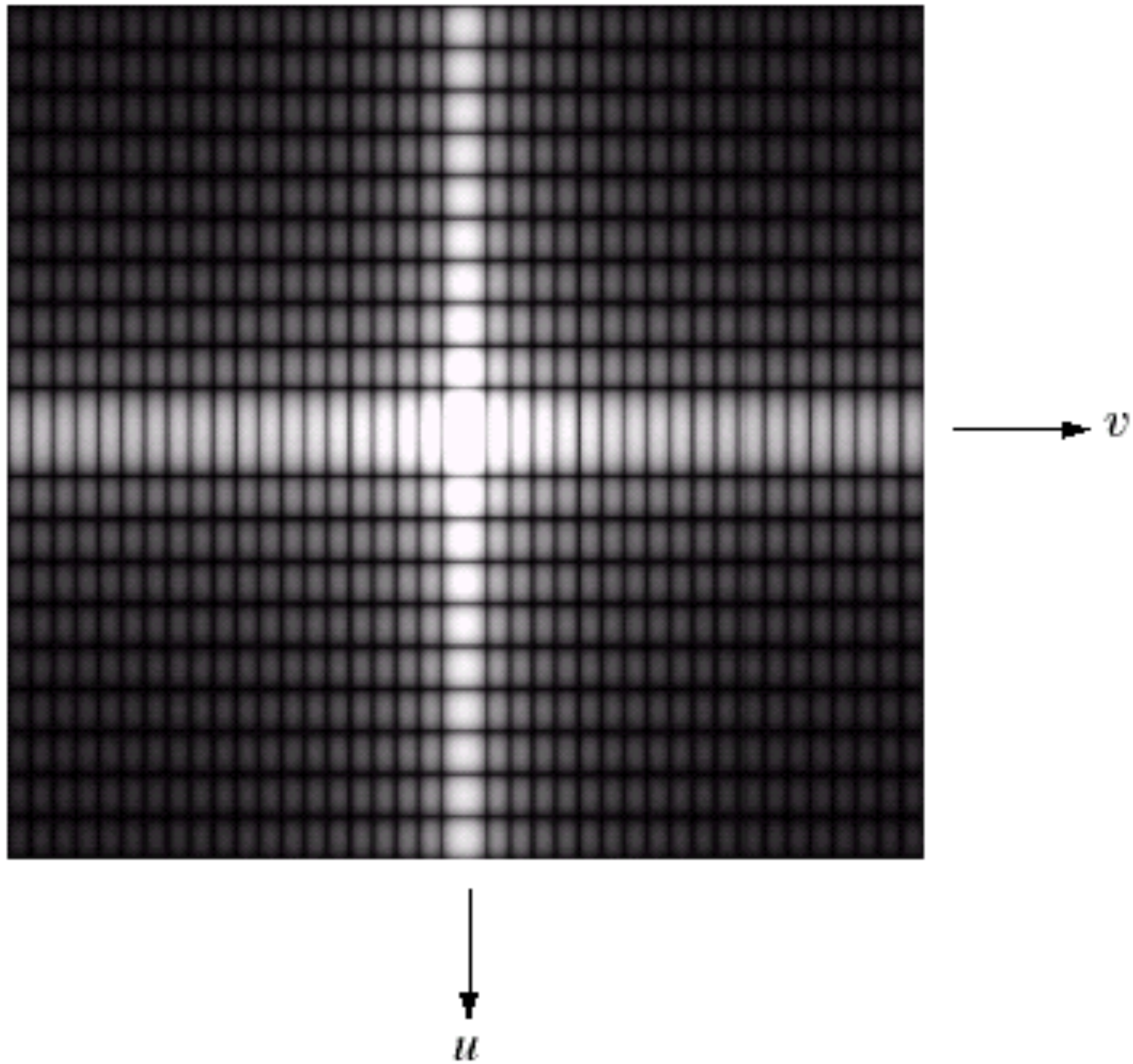
The DFT of a two dimensional image can be visualised by showing the spectrum of the images component frequencies



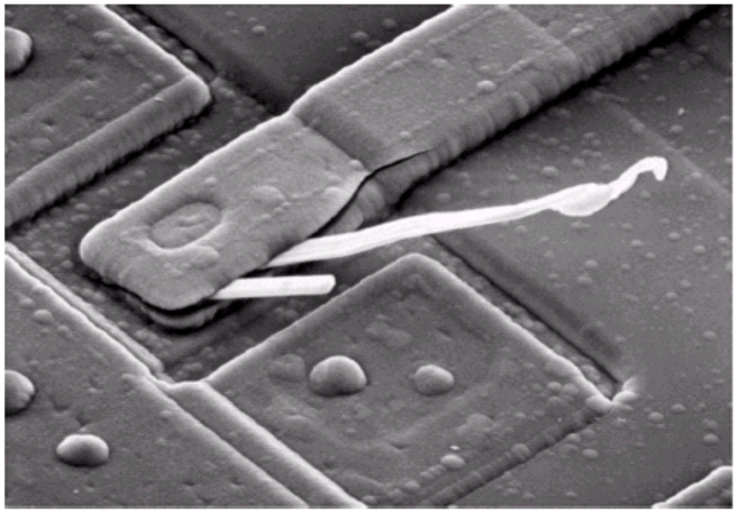
DFT & Images



DFT & Images

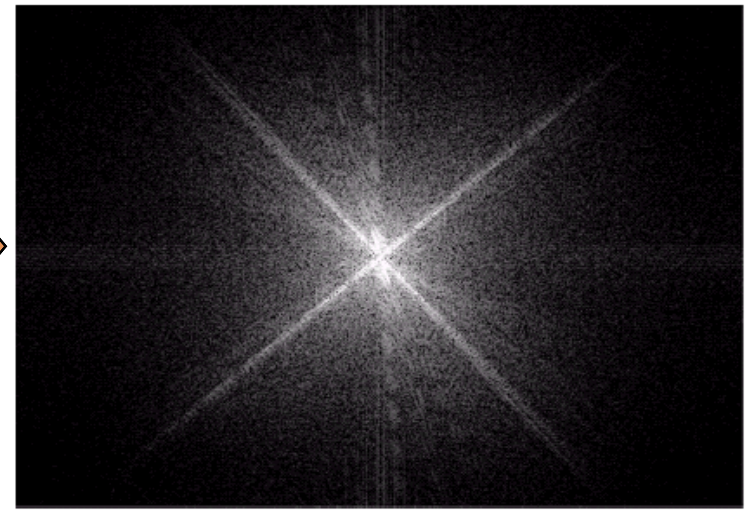


DFT & Images (cont…)



Scanning electron microscope image of an integrated circuit magnified ~2500 times

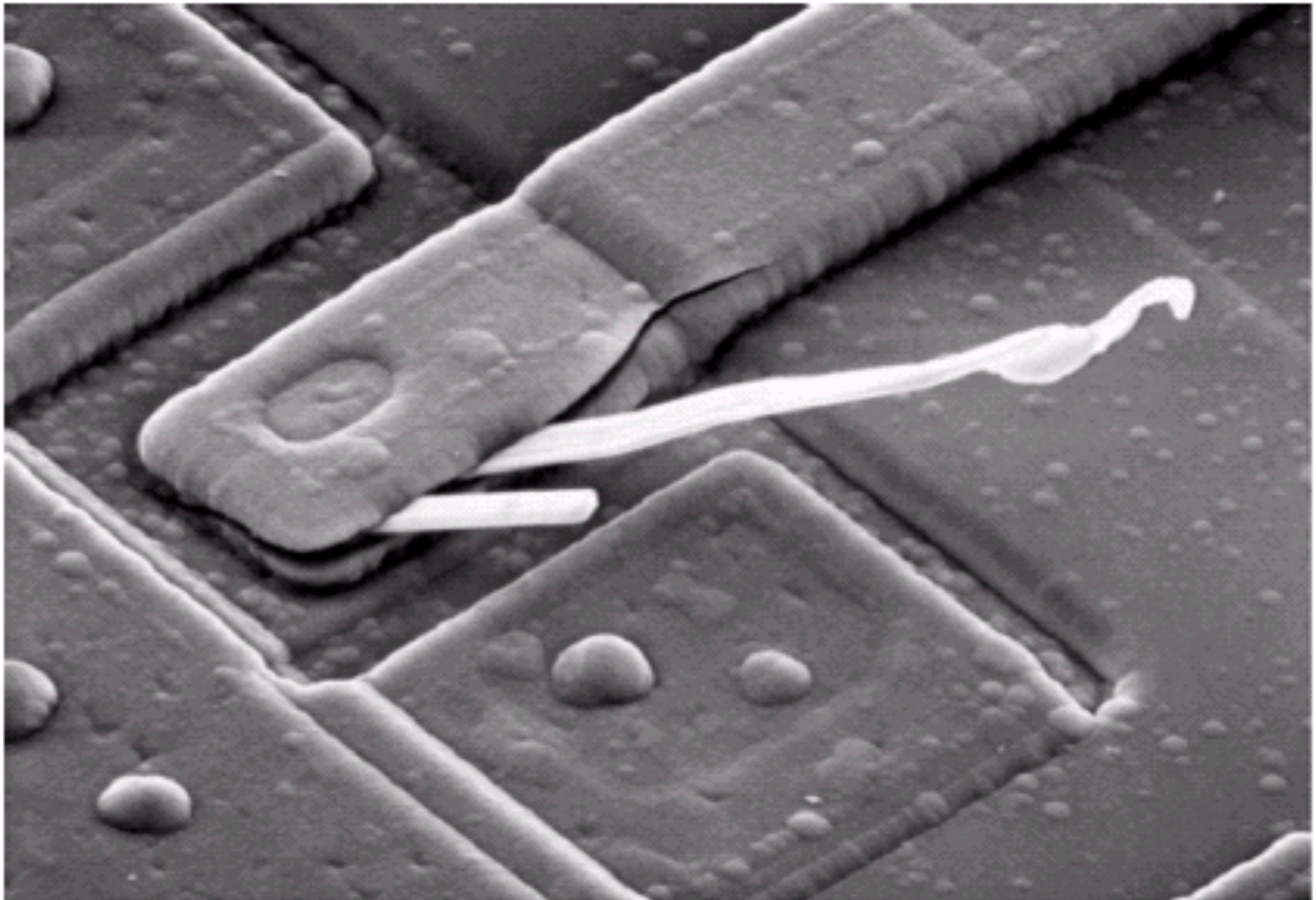
DFT



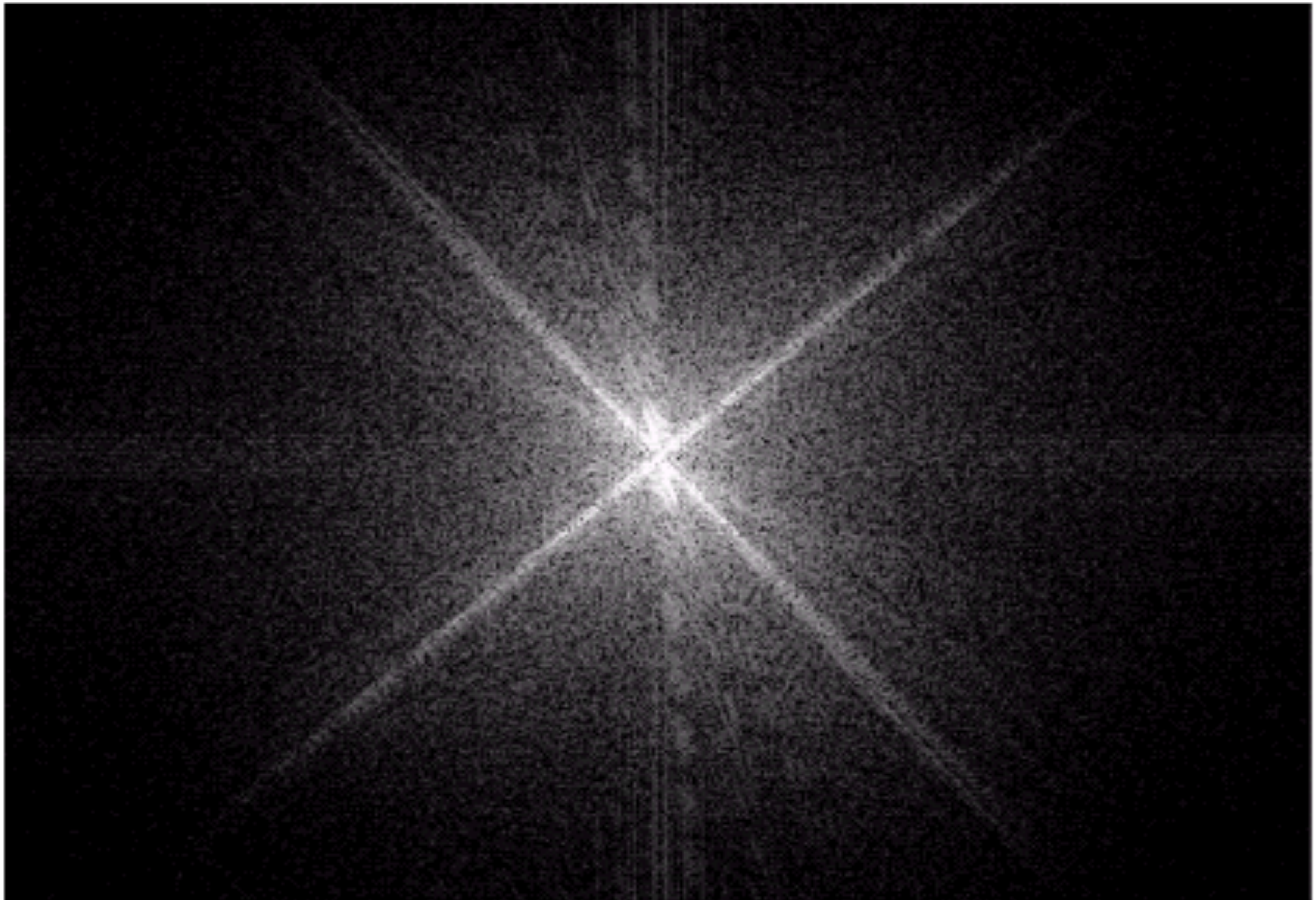
Fourier spectrum of the image

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

DFT & Images (cont…)



DFT & Images (cont…)



The Inverse DFT

It is really important to note that the Fourier transform is completely **reversible**

The inverse DFT is given by:

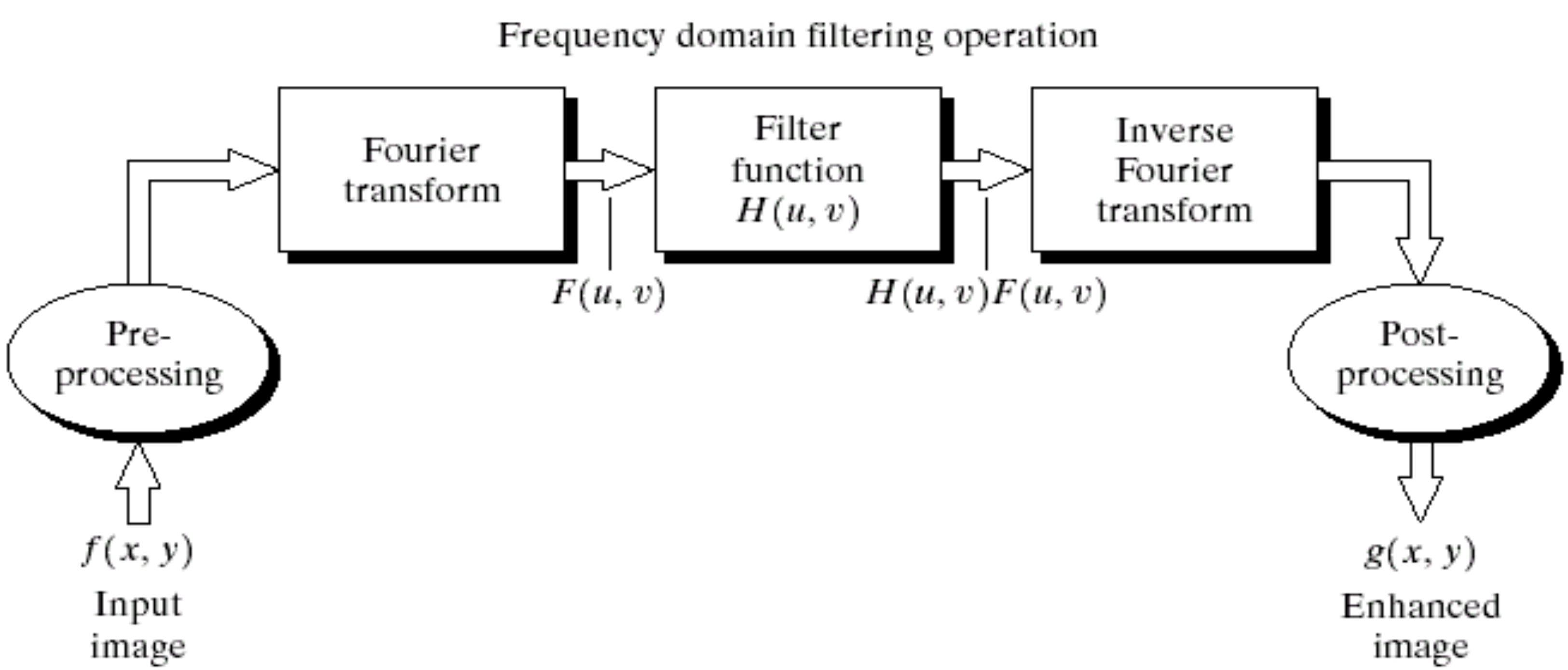
$$f(x,y) = \frac{1}{MN} \sum_{u=0}^{M-1} \sum_{v=0}^{N-1} F(u,v) e^{j2\pi(ux/M + vy/N)}$$

for x = 0, 1, 2…M-1 and y = 0, 1, 2…N-1

The DFT and Image Processing

To filter an image in the frequency domain:

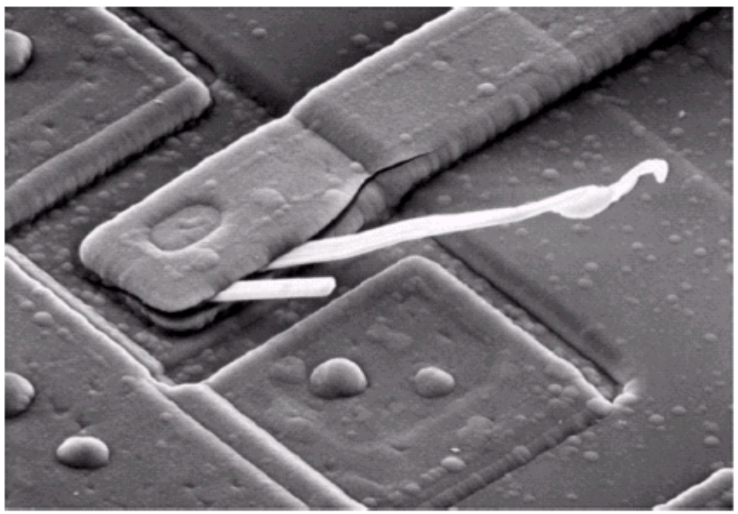
1. Compute *F(u,v)* the DFT of the image
2. Multiply *F(u,v)* by a filter function *H(u,v)*
3. Compute the inverse DFT of the result

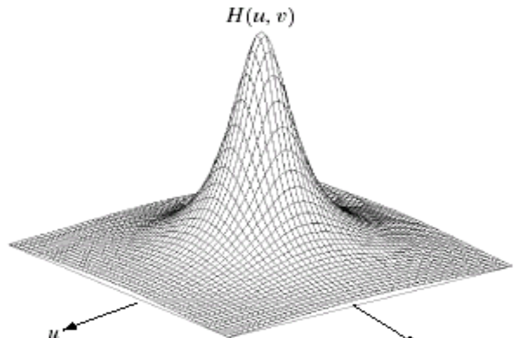


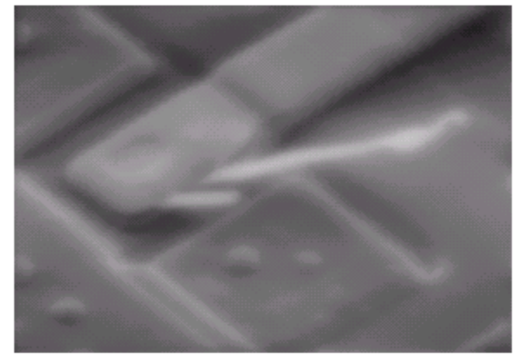
Some Basic Frequency Domain Filters

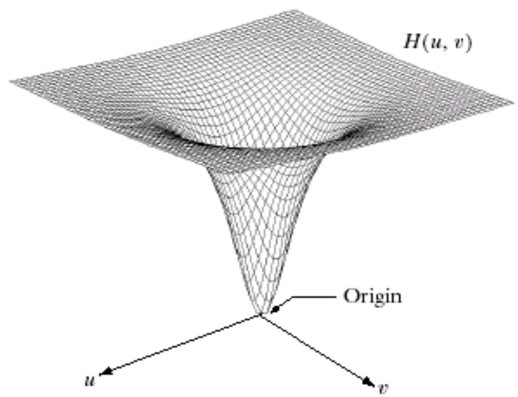
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

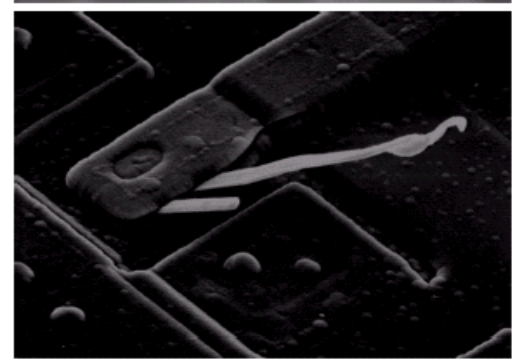
Low Pass Filter





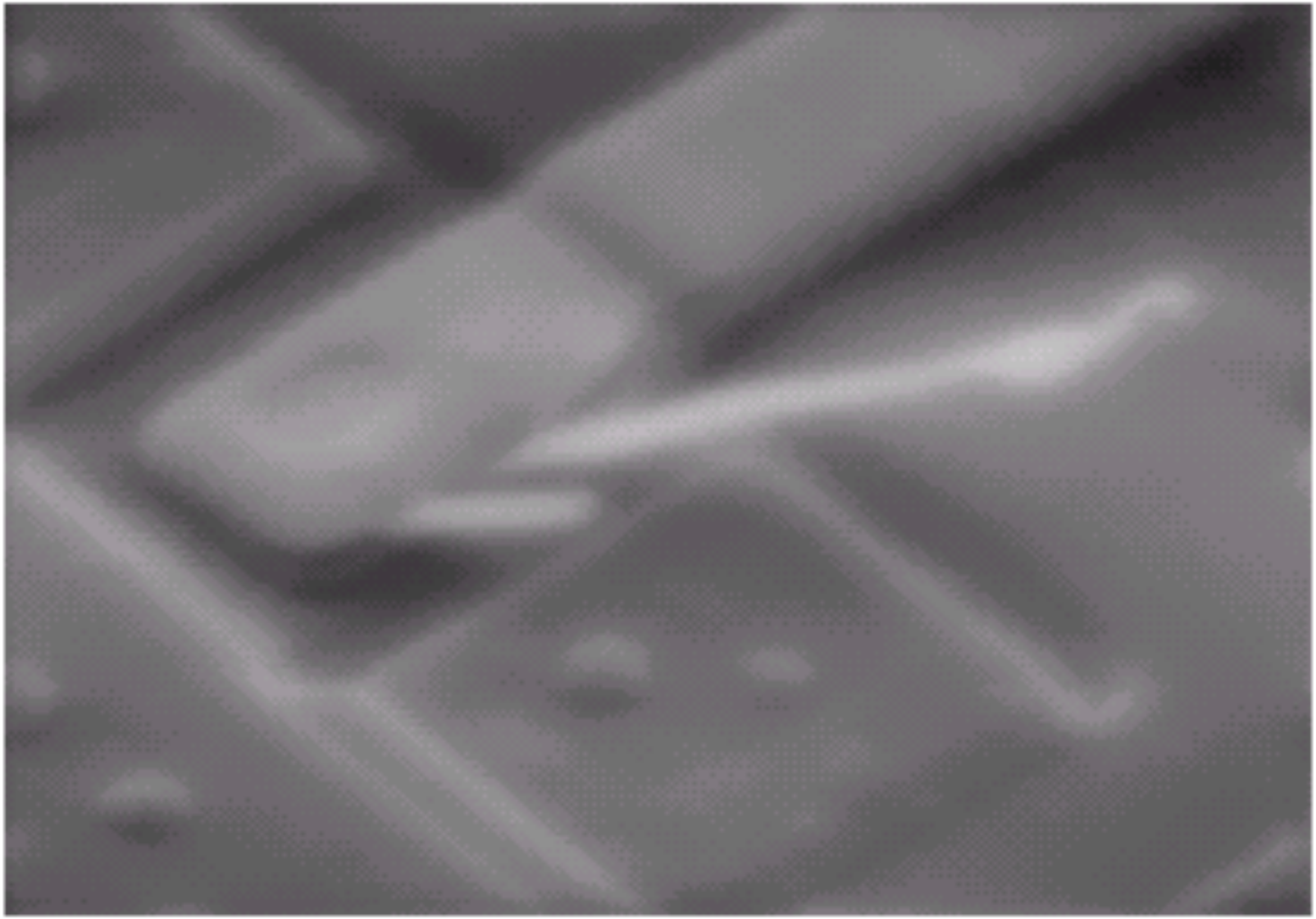




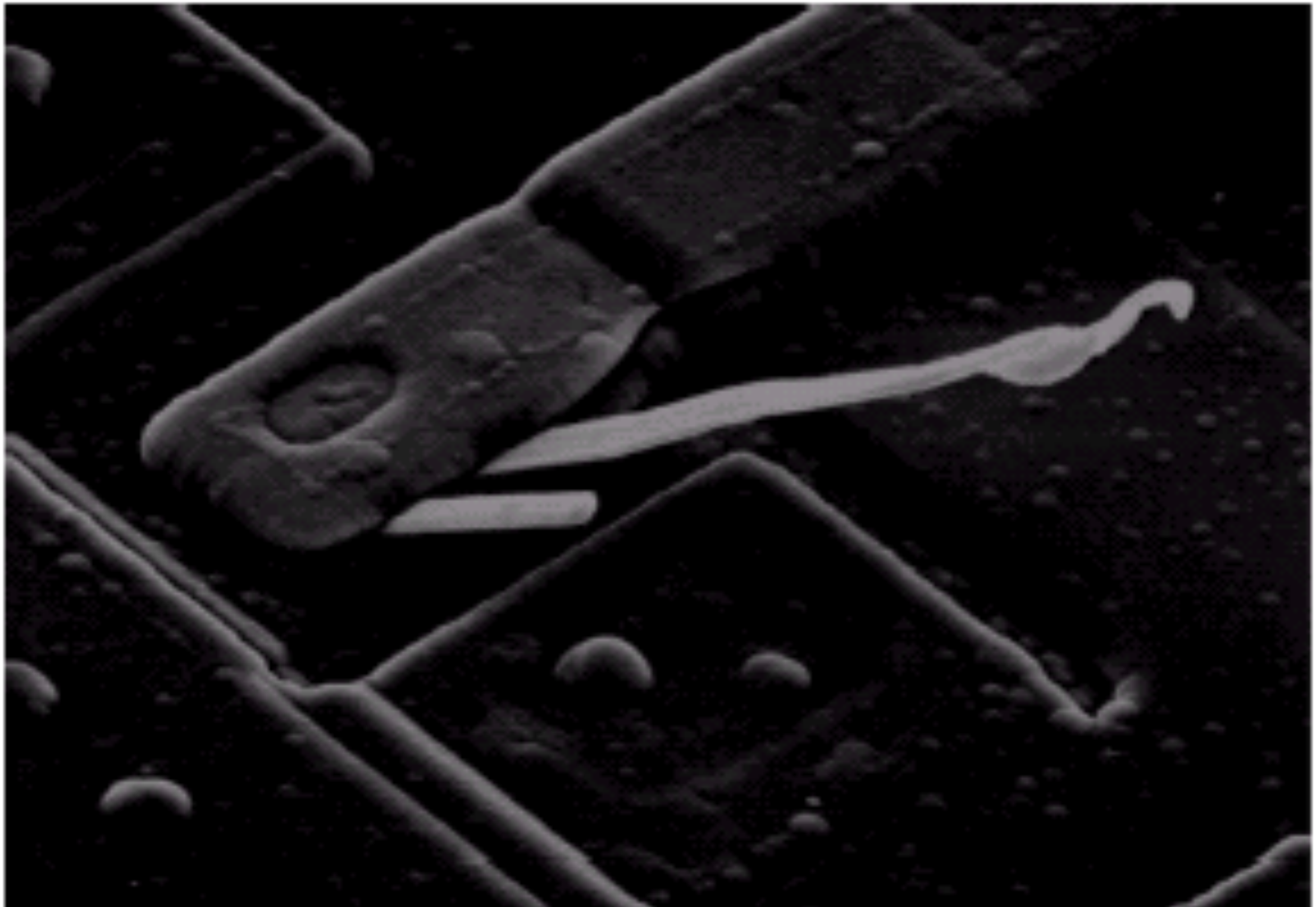


High Pass Filter

Some Basic Frequency Domain Filters



Some Basic Frequency Domain Filters



Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Smoothing Frequency Domain Filters

Smoothing is achieved in the frequency domain by dropping out the high frequency components

The basic model for filtering is:

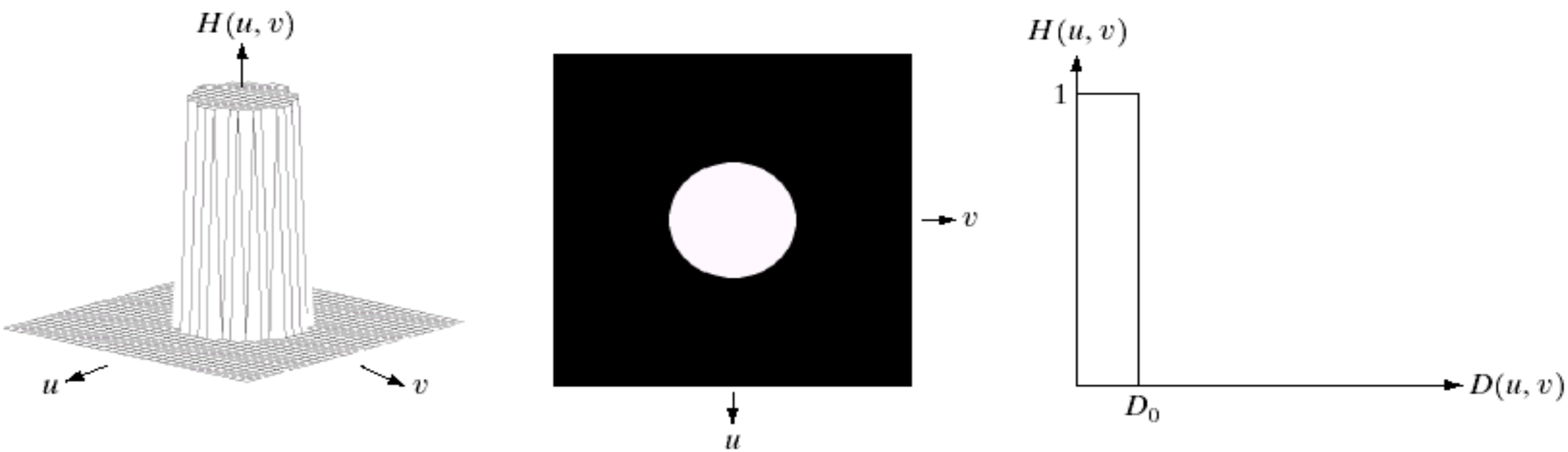
$$G(u,v) = H(u,v)F(u,v)$$

where $F(u,v)$ is the Fourier transform of the image being filtered and $H(u,v)$ is the filter transform function

Low pass filters – only pass the low frequencies, drop the high ones

Ideal Low Pass Filter

Simply cut off all high frequency components that are a specified distance D_0 from the origin of the transform



filter

Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)

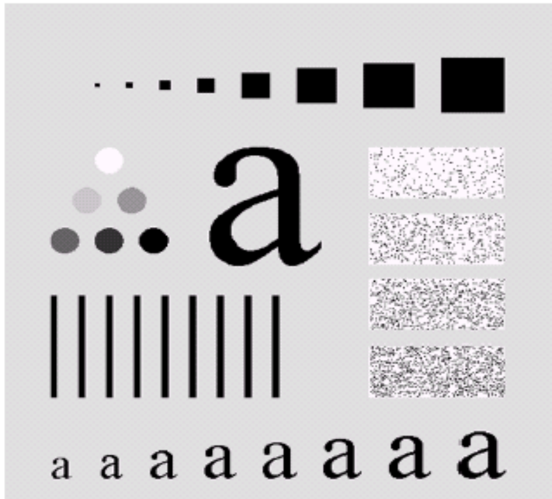
The transfer function for the ideal low pass filter can be given as:

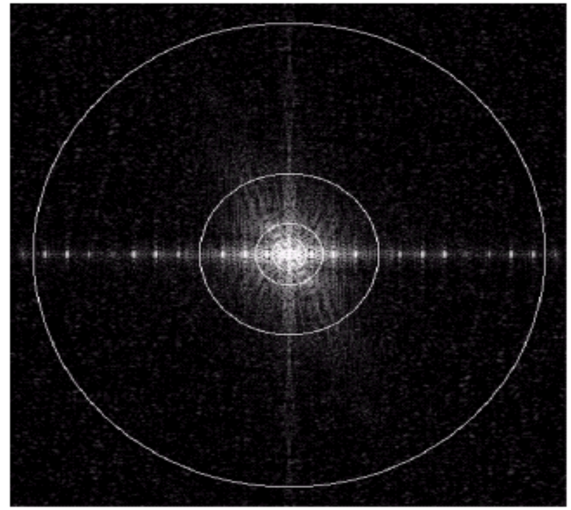
$$H(u,v) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } D(u,v) \le D_0 \\ 0 & \text{if } D(u,v) > D_0 \end{cases}$$

where $D(u,v)$ is given as:

$$D(u,v) = [(u - M/2)^2 + (v - N/2)^2]^{1/2}$$

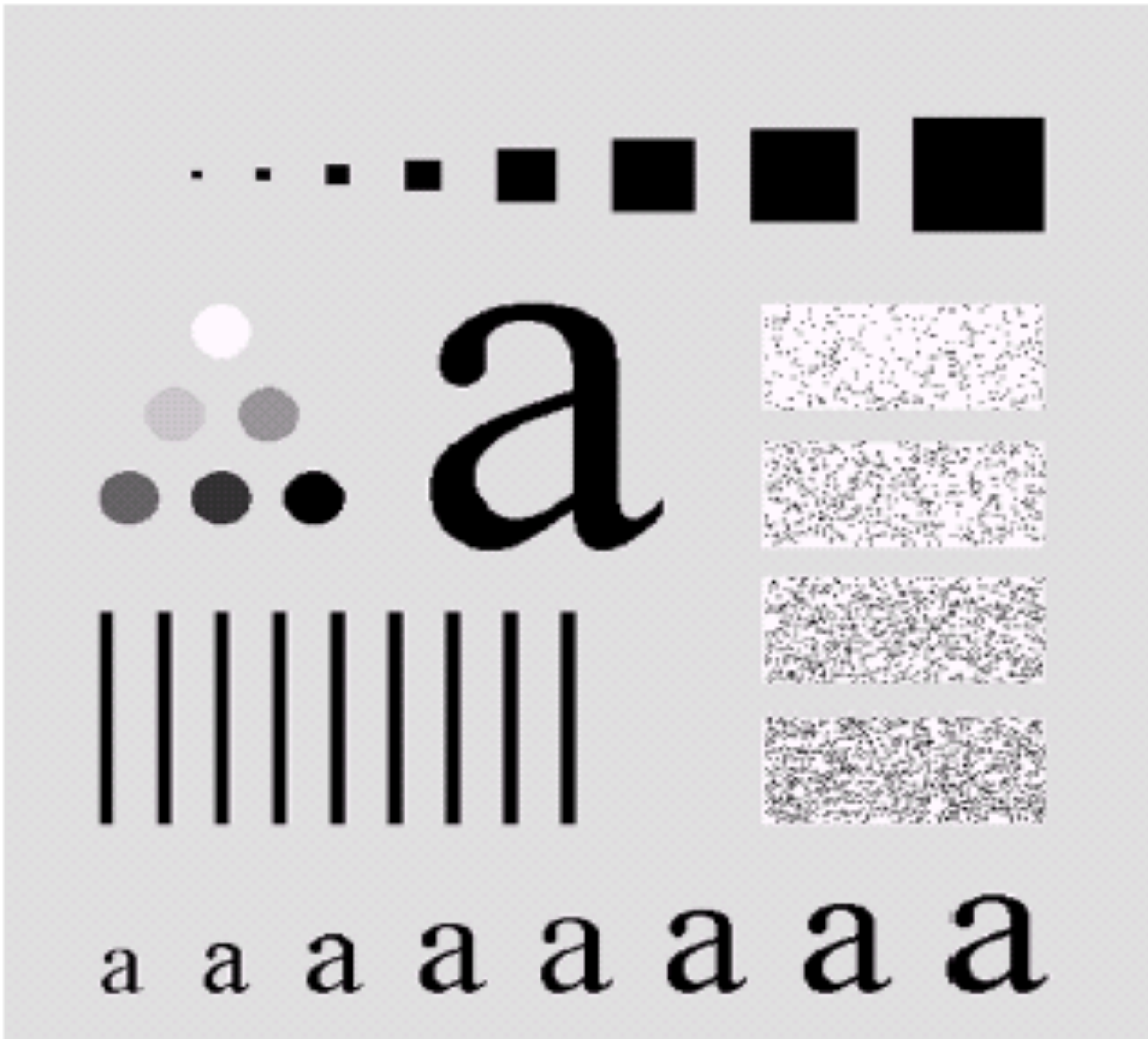
Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)





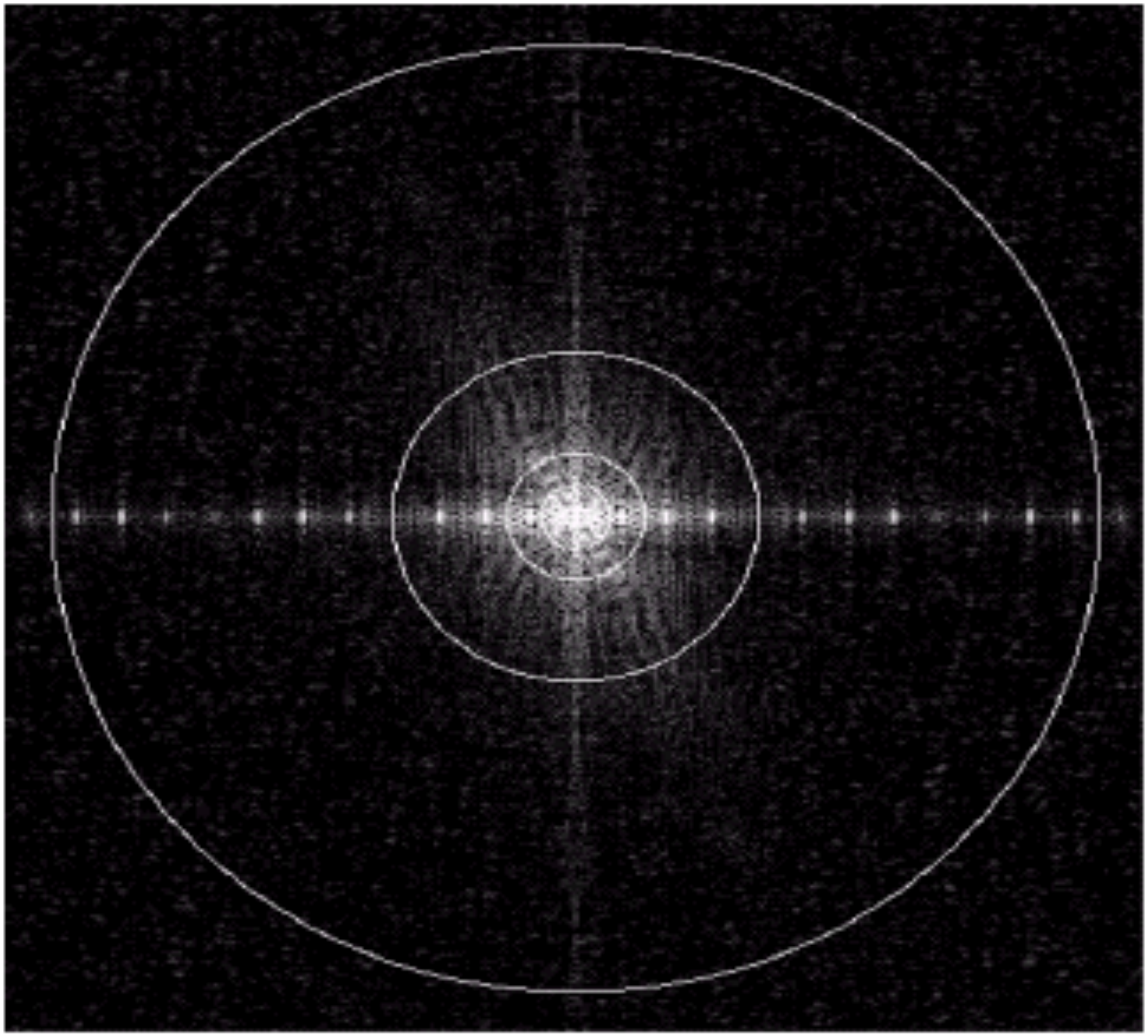
Above we show an image, it's Fourier spectrum and a series of ideal low pass filters of radius 5, 15, 30, 80 and 230 superimposed on top of it

Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)

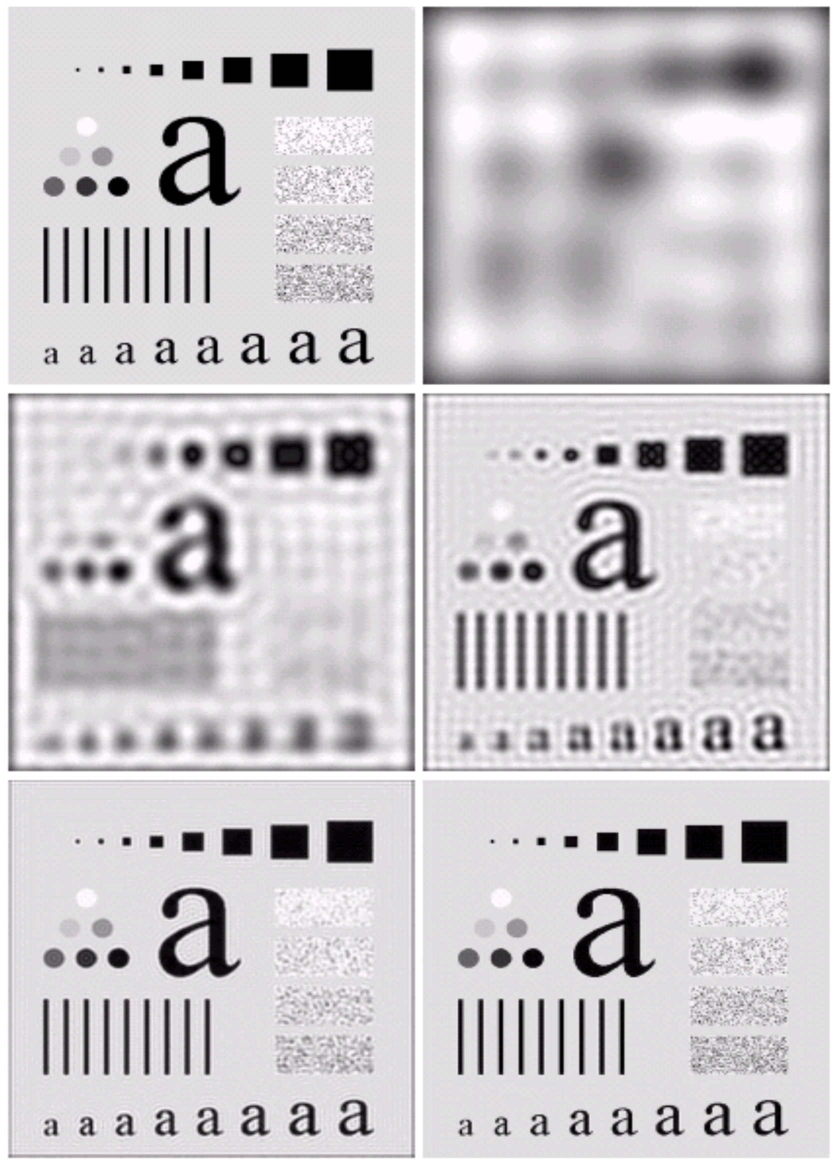


Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)



Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)



Original image

Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 5

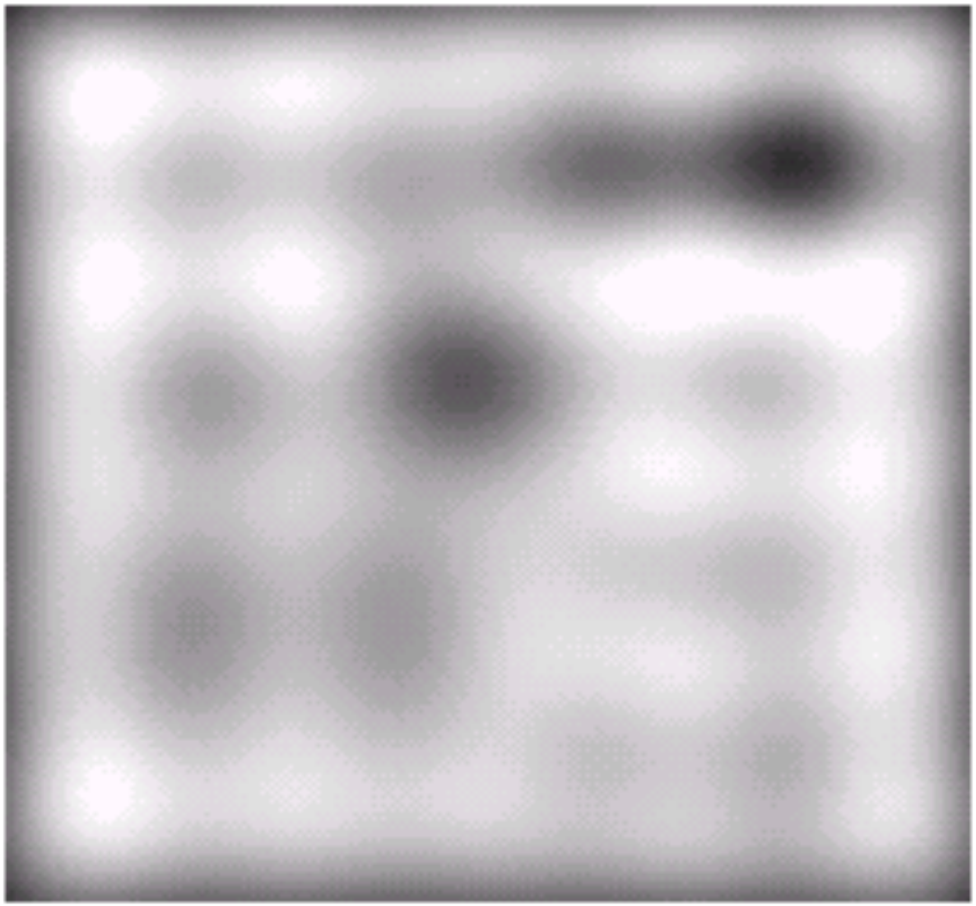
Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 15

Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 30

Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 80

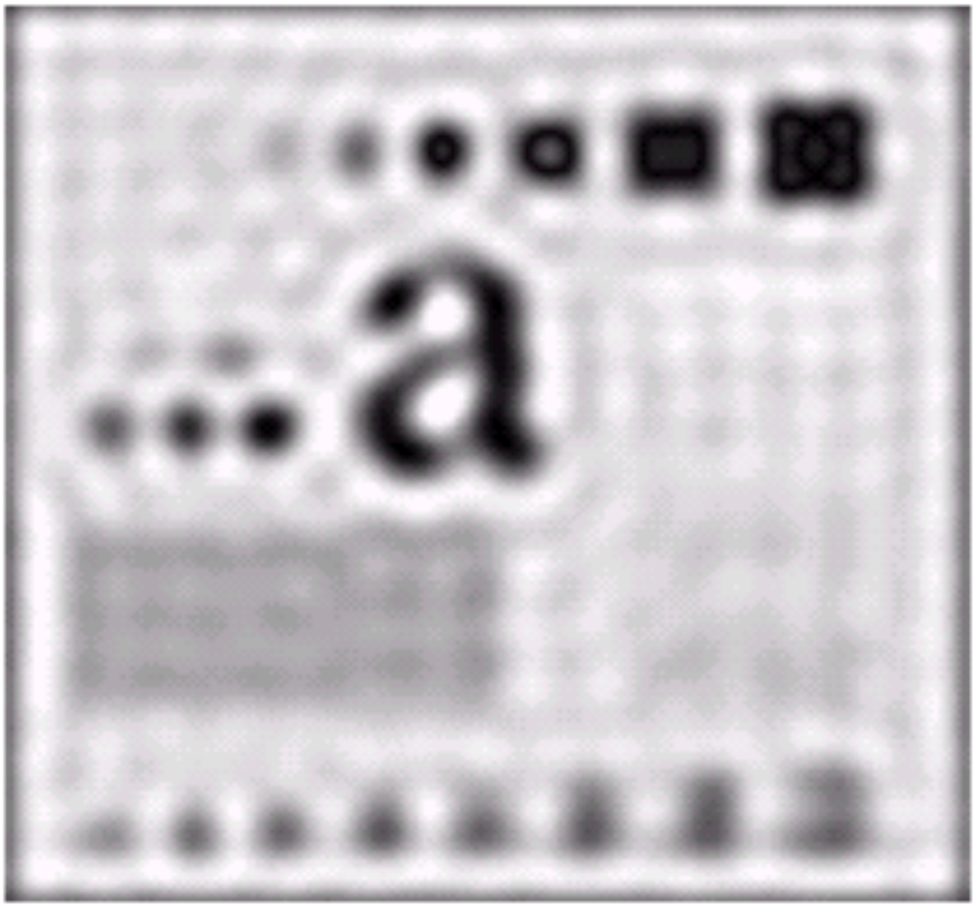
Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 230

Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)



Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 5

Ideal Low Pass Filter (cont…)



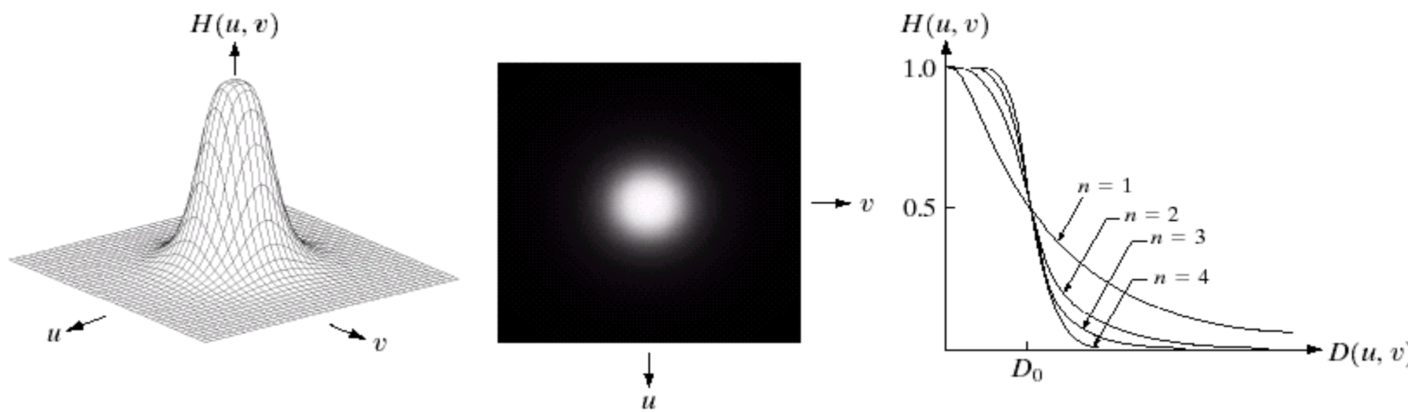
Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 15

Butterworth Lowpass Filters

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

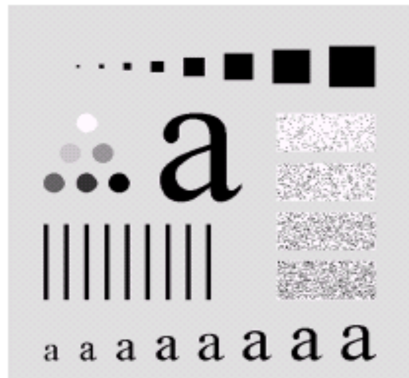
The transfer function of a Butterworth lowpass filter of order n with cutoff frequency at distance D_0 from the origin is defined as:

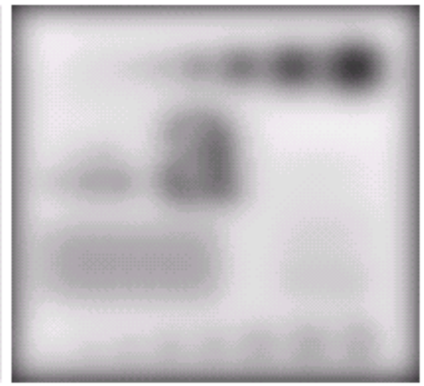
$$H(u,v) = \frac{1}{1 + [D(u,v)/D_0]^{2n}}$$



Butterworth Lowpass Filter (cont…)

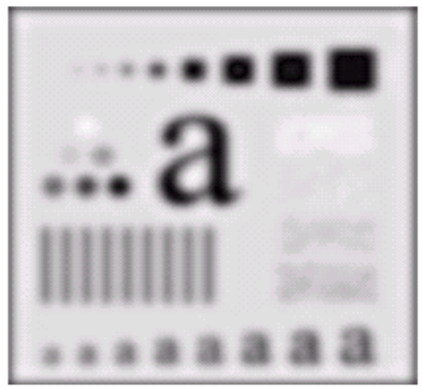
Original image

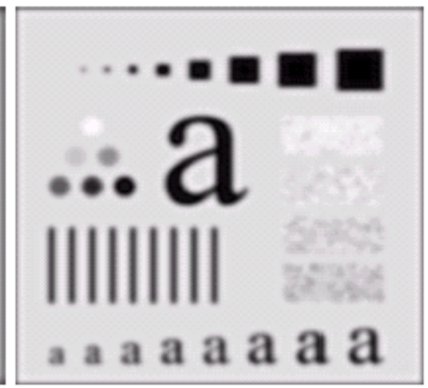




Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 5

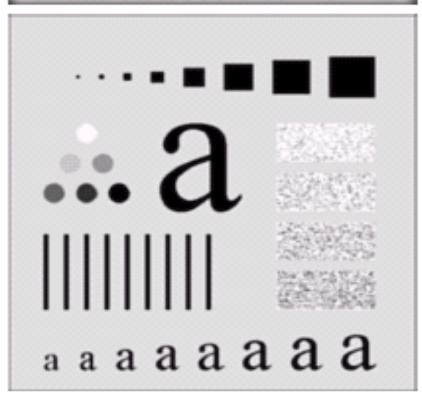
Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 15

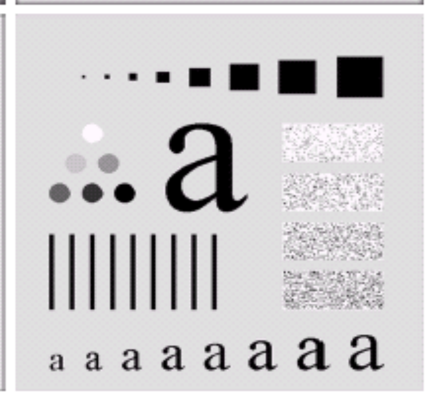




Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 30

Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 80

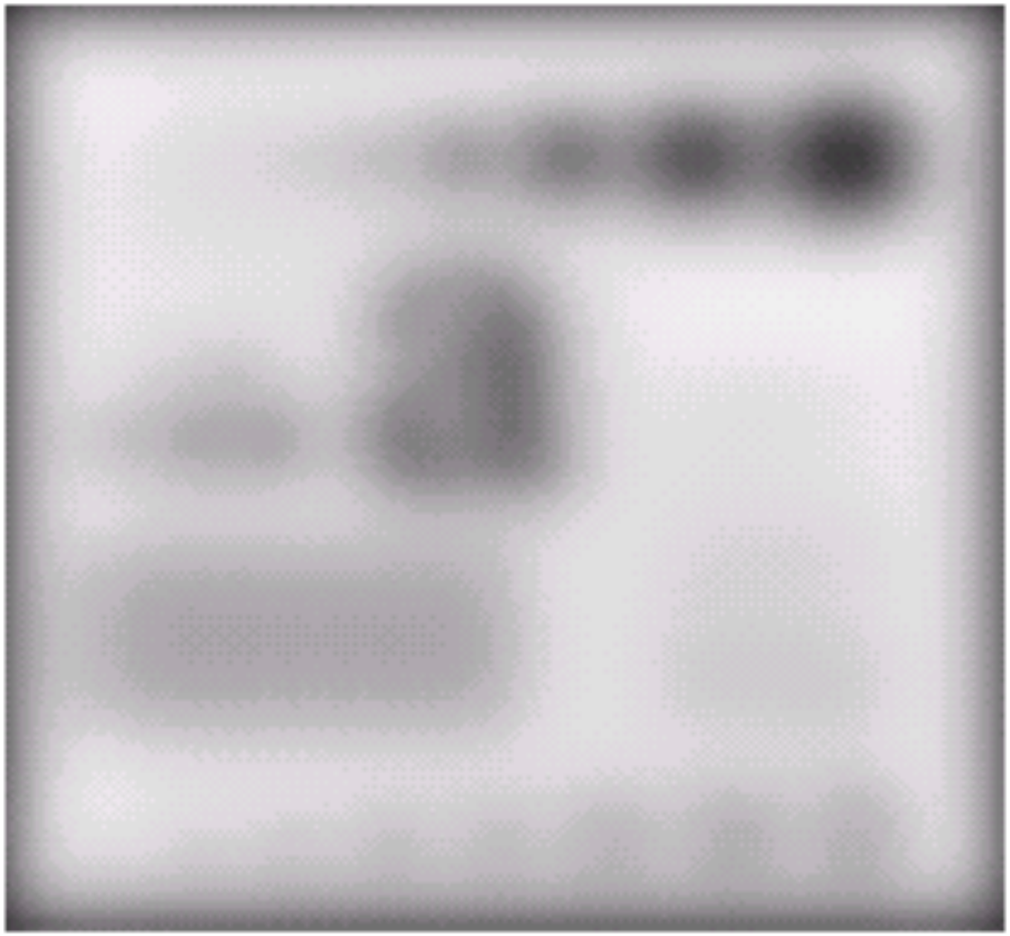




Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 230

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Butterworth Lowpass Filter (cont…)

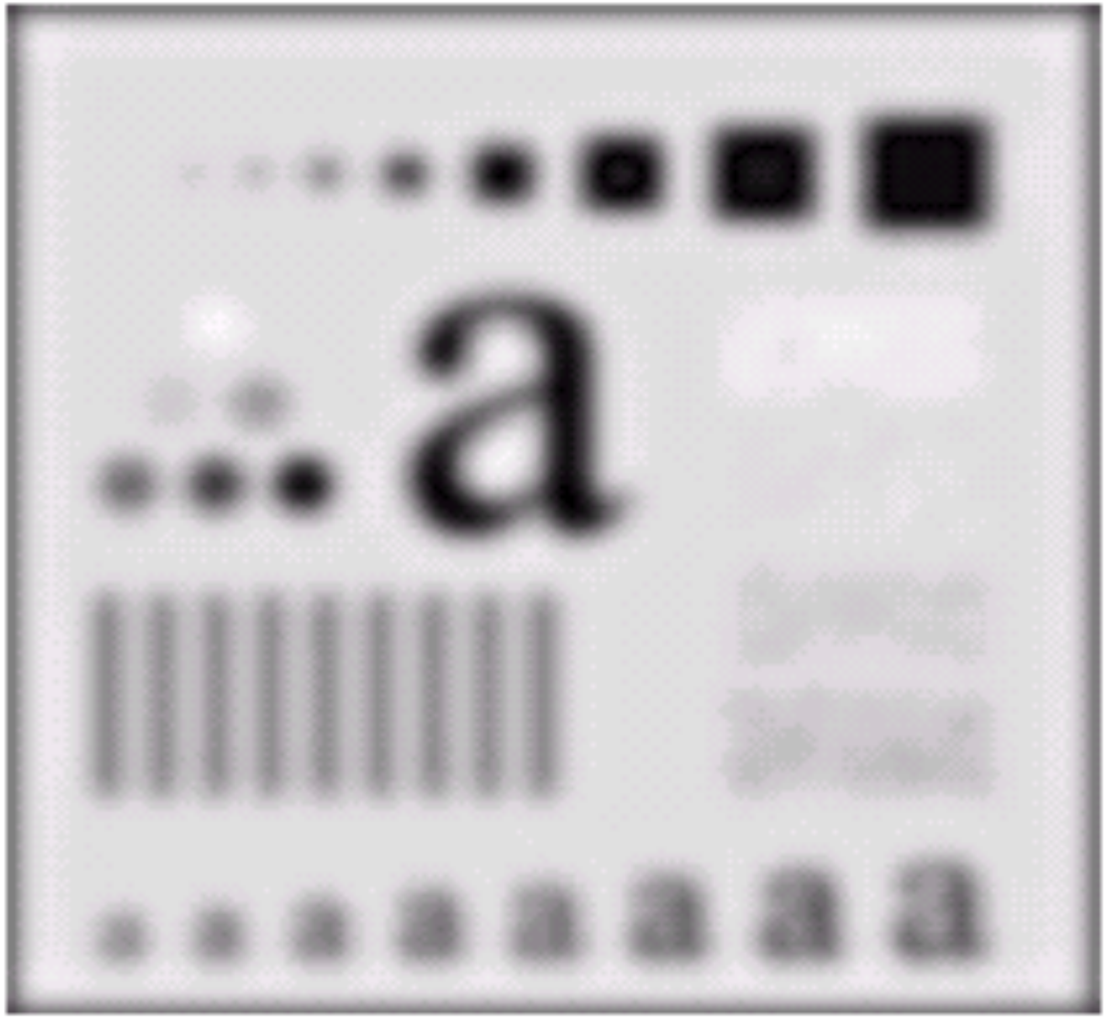


Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 5

Butterworth Lowpass Filter (cont…)

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 15

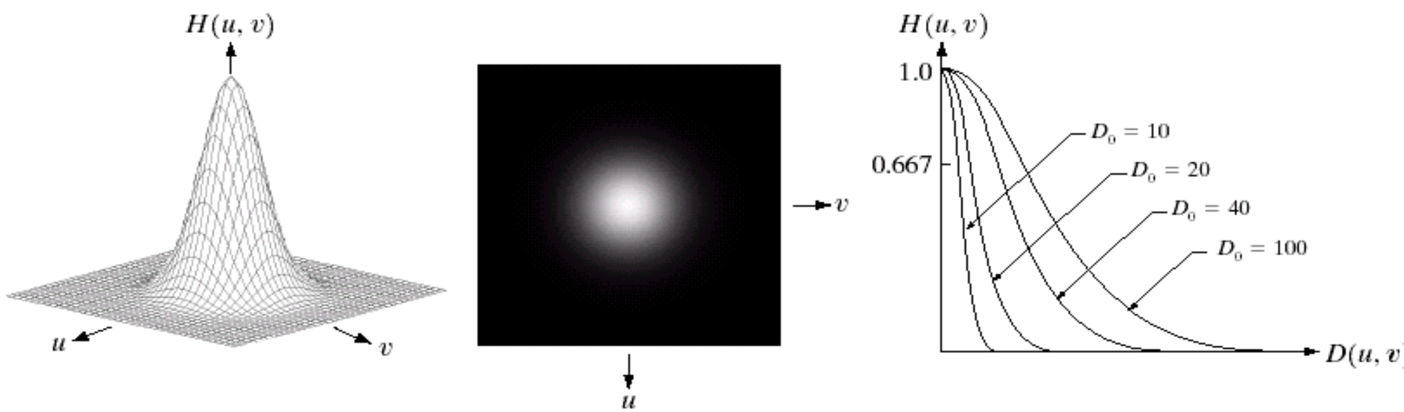


Gaussian Lowpass Filters

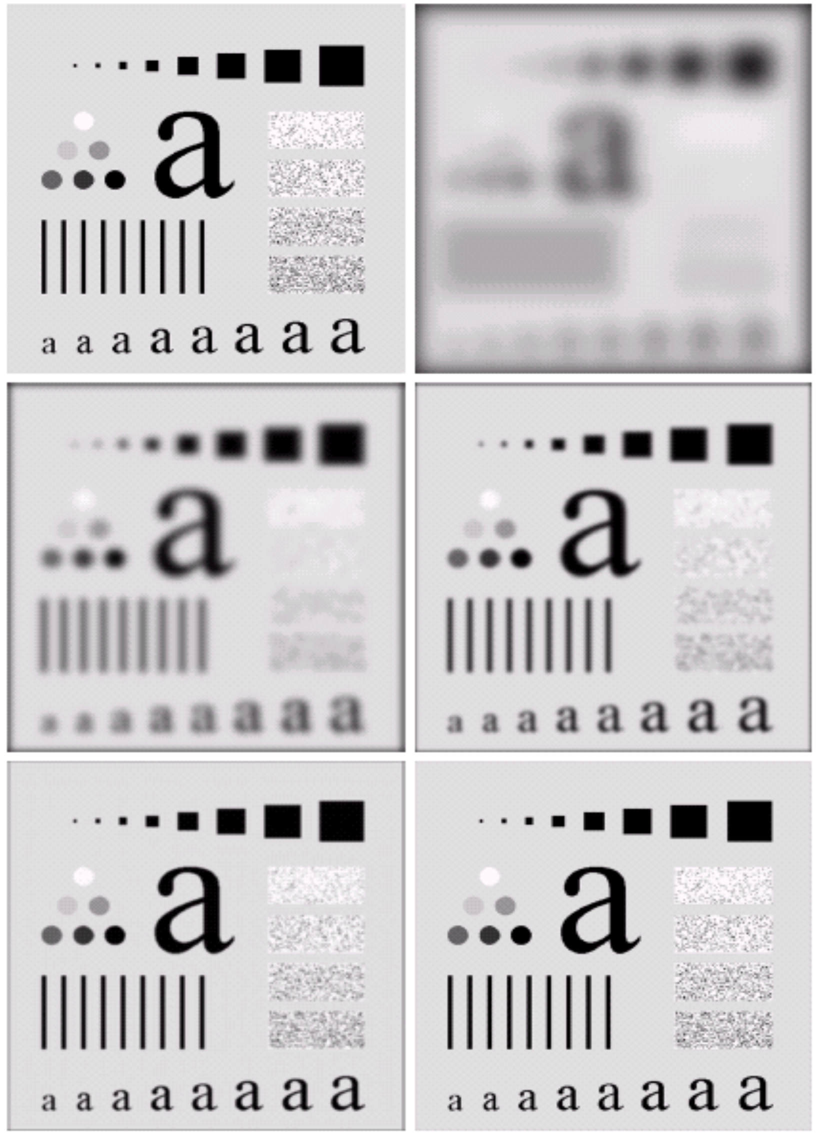
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

The transfer function of a Gaussian lowpass filter is defined as:

$$H(u,v) = e^{-D^2(u,v)/2D_0^2}$$



Gaussian Lowpass Filters (cont…)



Original image

Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 5

Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 15

Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 30

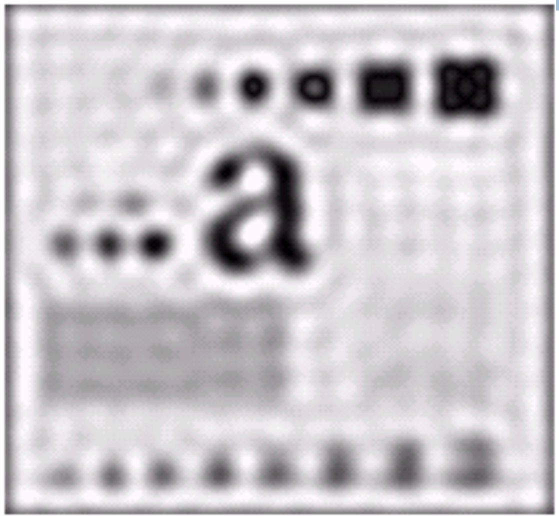
Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 85

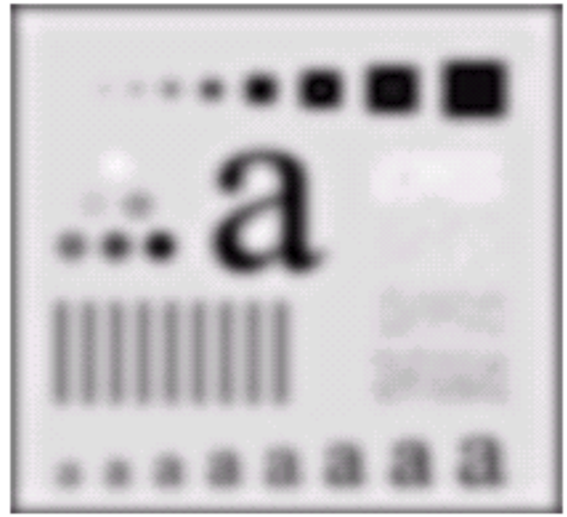
Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 230

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Lowpass Filters Compared

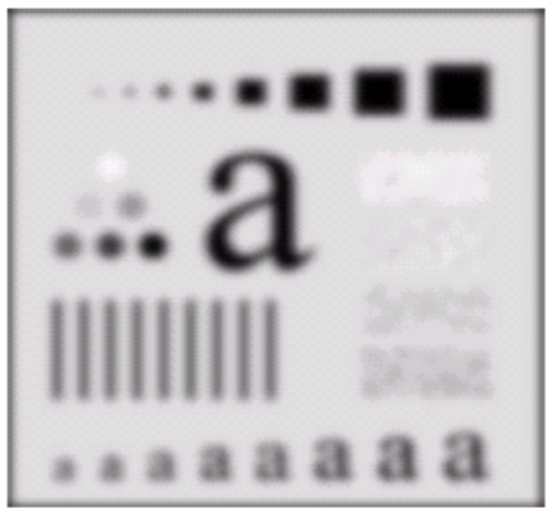
Result of filtering with ideal low pass filter of radius 15





Result of filtering with Butterworth filter of order 2 and cutoff radius 15

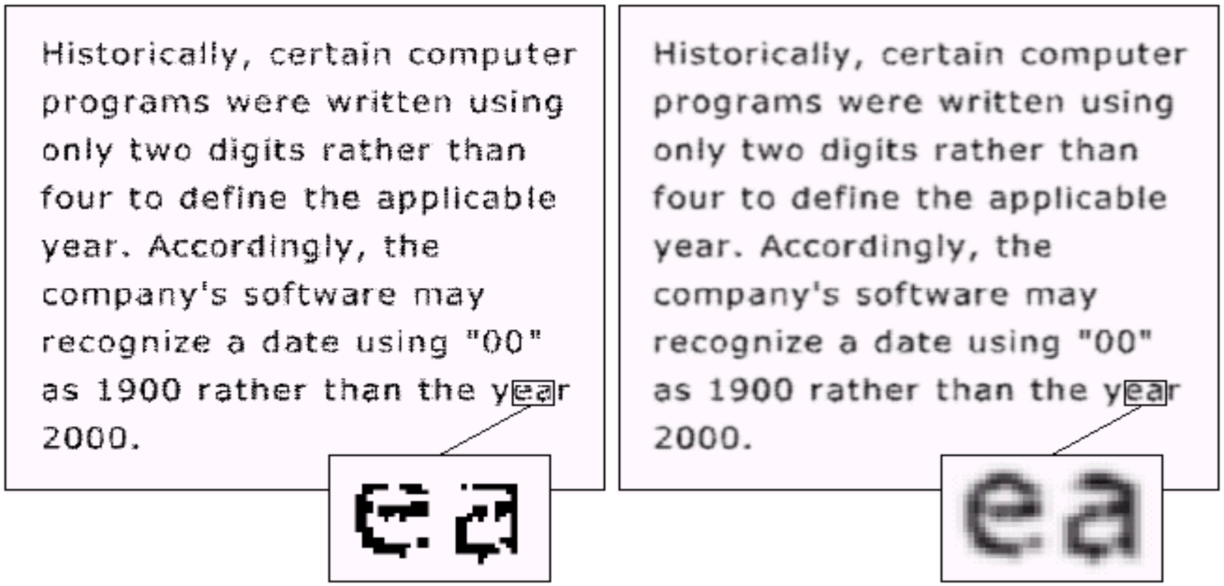
Result of filtering with Gaussian filter with cutoff radius 15



Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Lowpass Filtering Examples

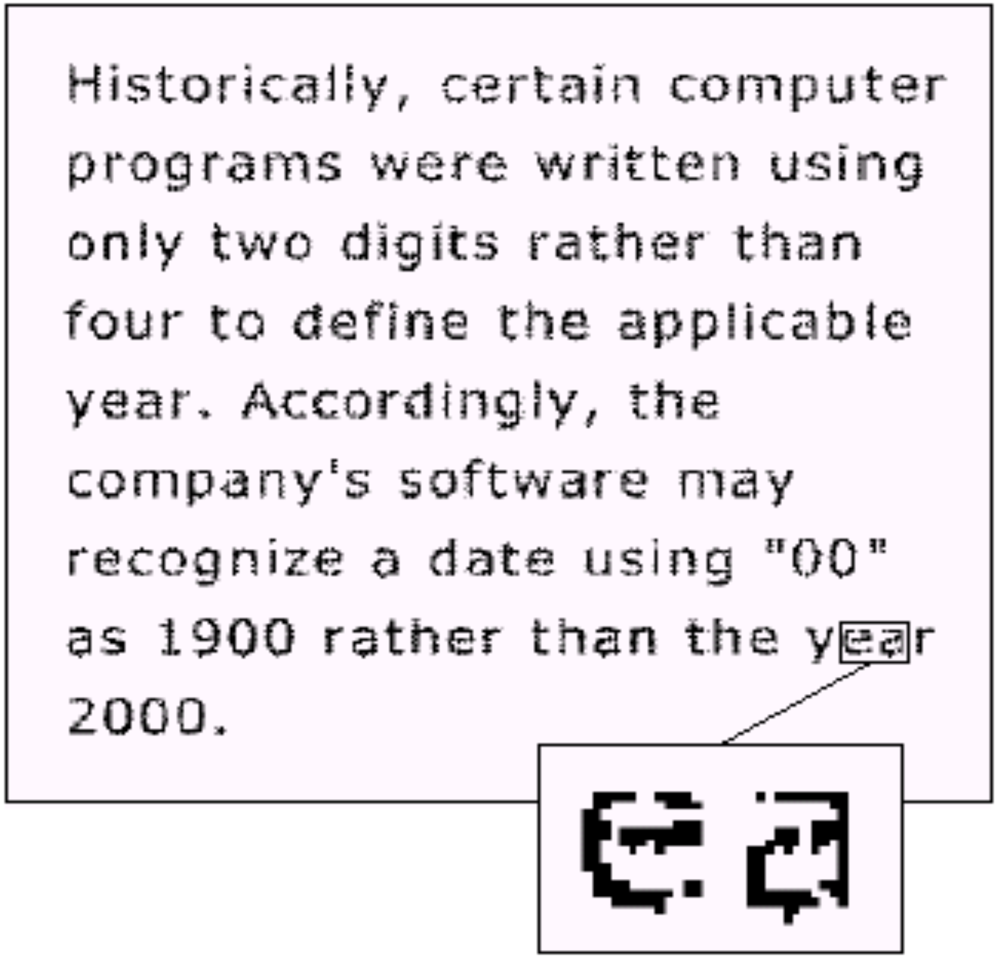
A low pass Gaussian filter is used to connect broken text

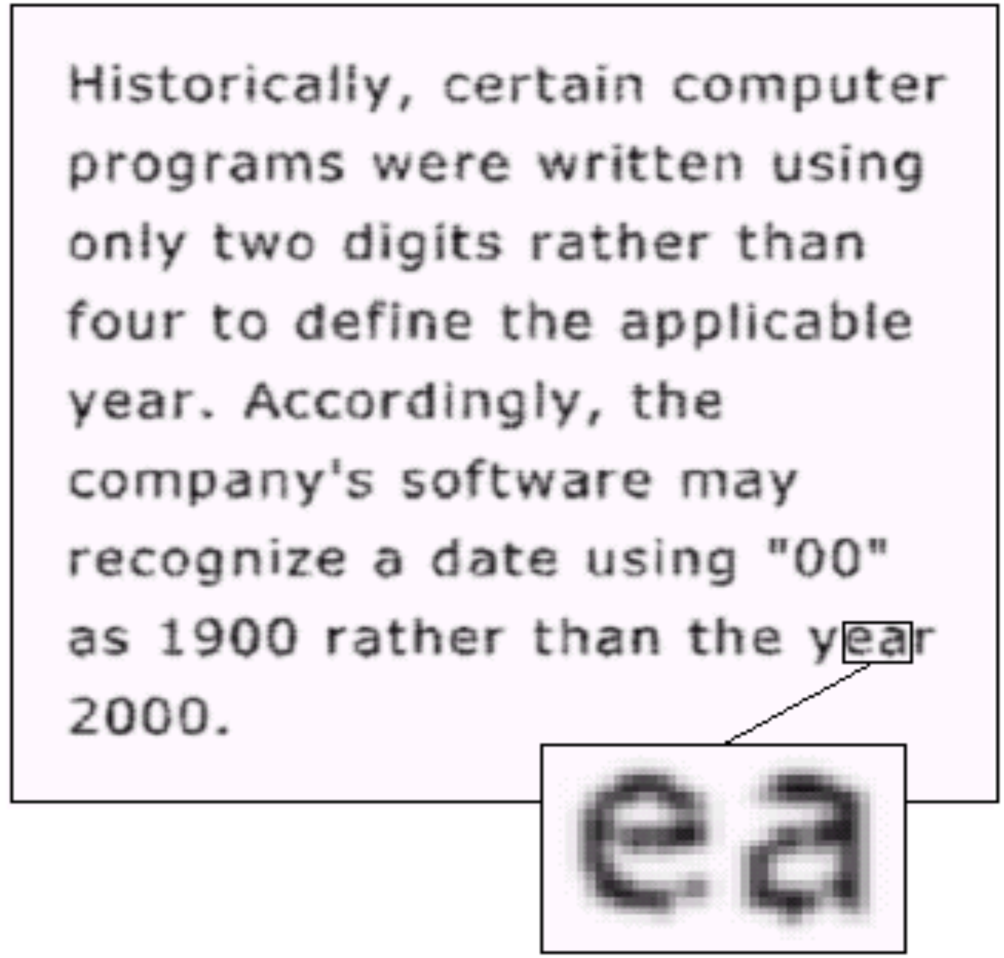


Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Lowpass Filtering Examples

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)





Lowpass Filtering Examples (cont…)

Different lowpass Gaussian filters used to remove blemishes in a photograph

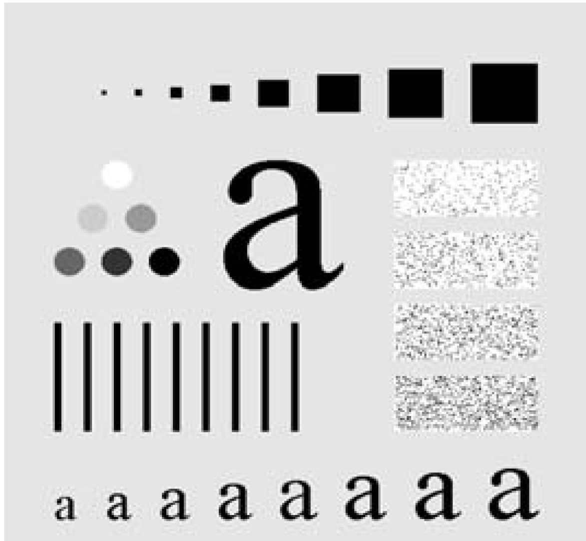
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Lowpass Filtering Examples (cont…)

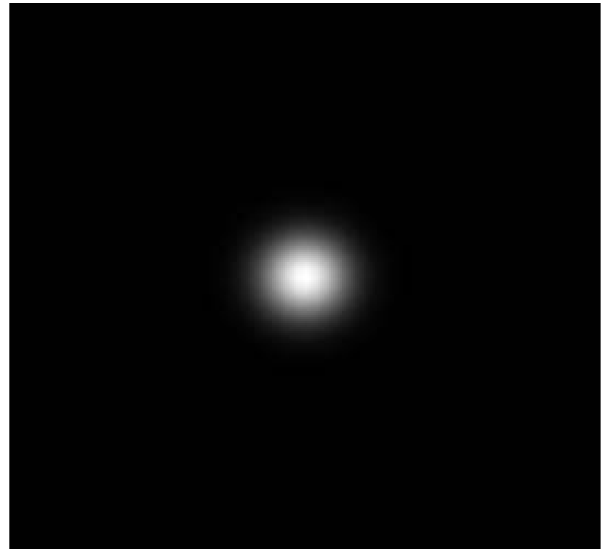
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Lowpass Filtering Examples (cont…)

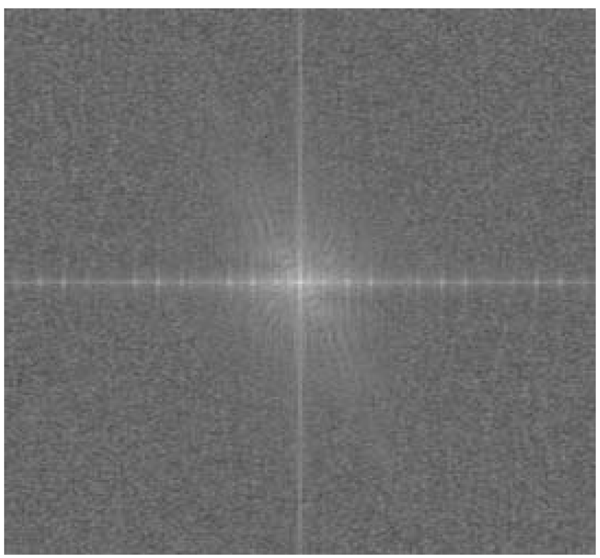
Original image



Gaussian lowpass filter



Spectrum of original image



Processed image

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Sharpening in the Frequency Domain

Edges and fine detail in images are associated with high frequency components

High pass filters – only pass the high frequencies, drop the low ones

High pass frequencies are precisely the reverse of low pass filters, so:

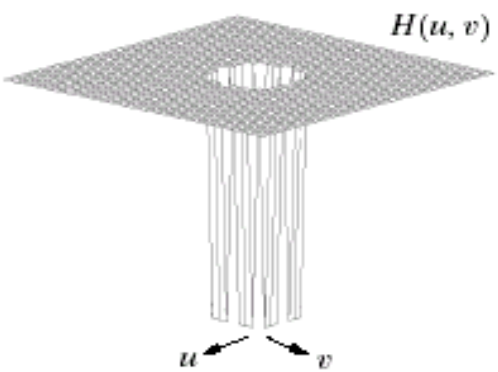
$$H_{hp}(u, v) = 1 - H_{lp}(u, v)$$

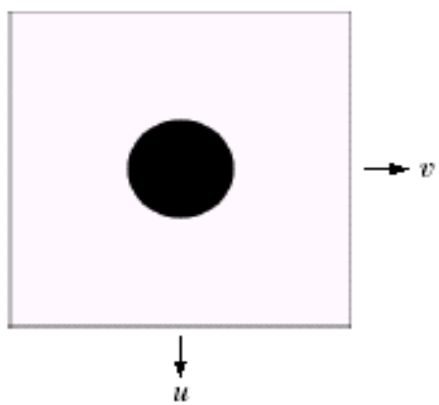
Ideal High Pass Filters

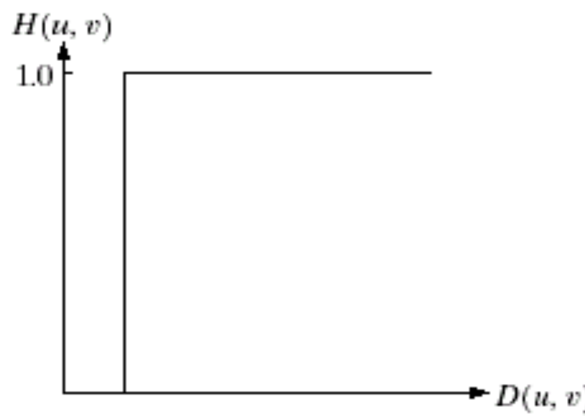
The ideal high pass filter is given as:

$$H(u,v) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } D(u,v) \leq D_0 \\ 1 & \text{if } D(u,v) > D_0 \end{cases}$$

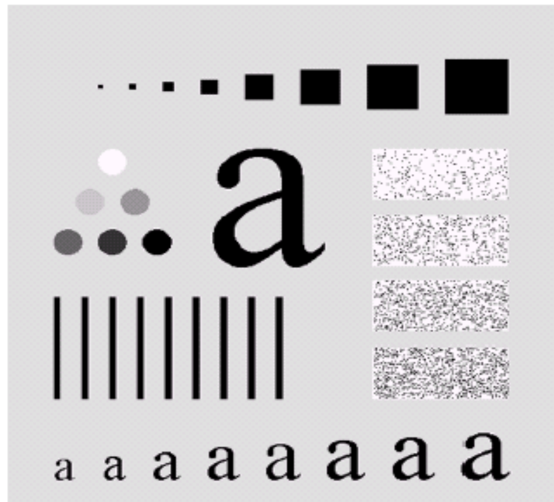
where D_0 is the cut off distance as before

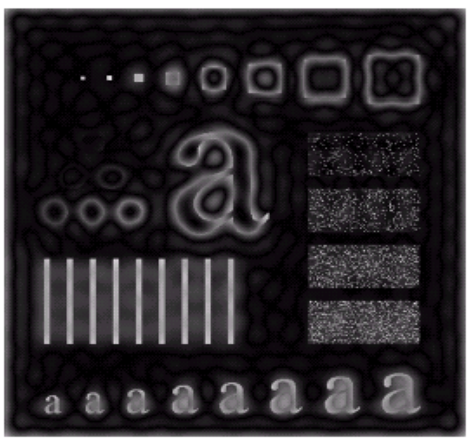




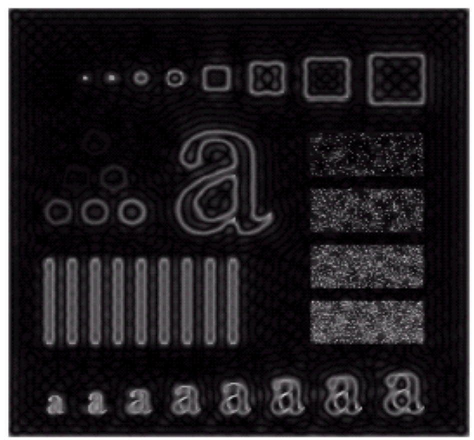


Ideal High Pass Filters (cont…)

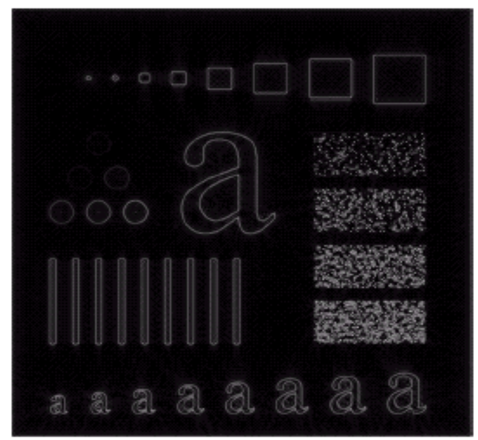




Results of ideal high pass filtering with $D_0 = 15$



Results of ideal high pass filtering with $D_0 = 30$



Results of ideal high pass filtering with $D_0 = 80$

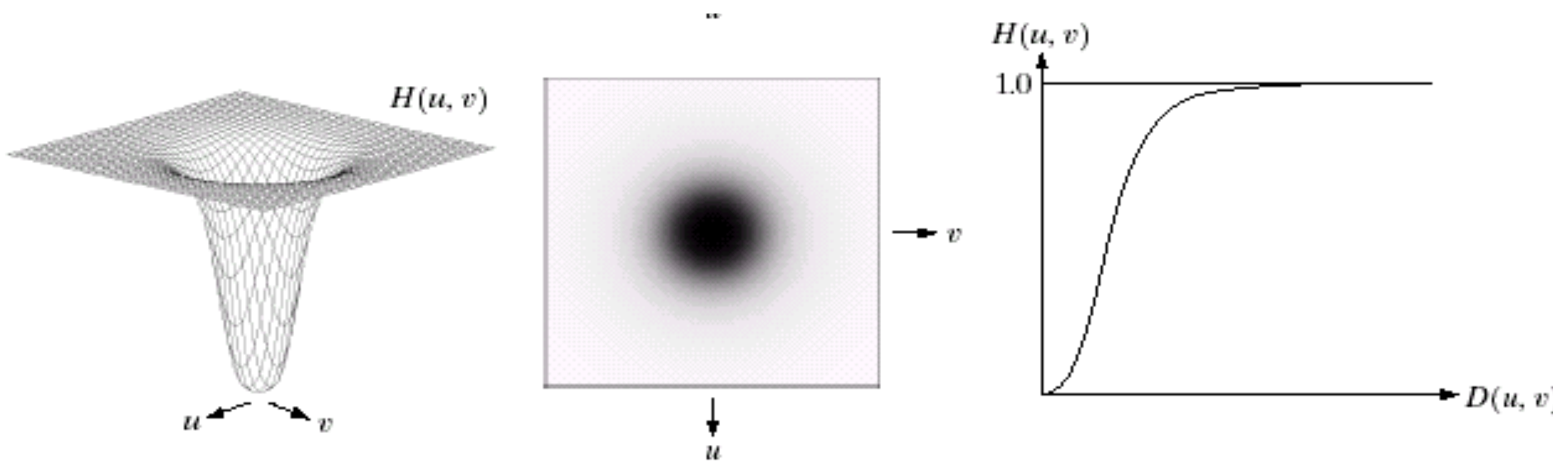
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Butterworth High Pass Filters

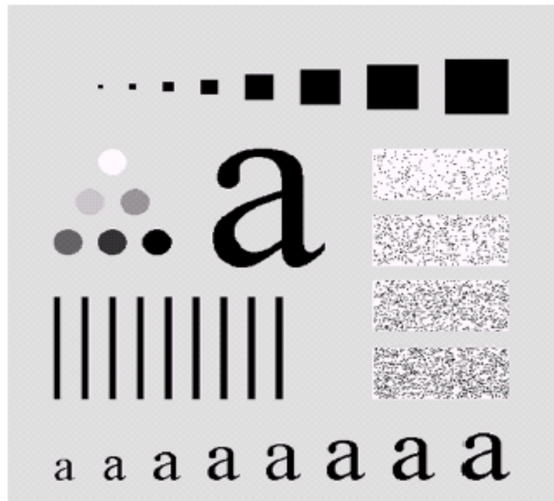
The Butterworth high pass filter is given as:

$$H(u,v) = \frac{1}{1 + [D_0 / D(u,v)]^{2n}}$$

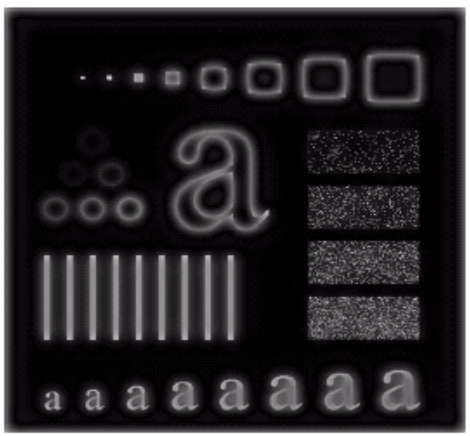
where n is the order and D_0 is the cut off distance as before

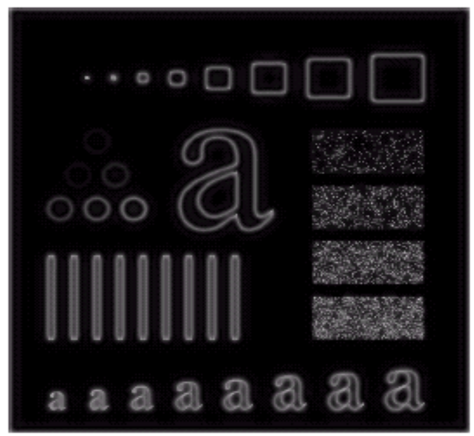


Butterworth High Pass Filters (cont…)



Results of Butterworth high pass filtering of order 2 with $D_0 = 15$





Results of Butterworth high pass filtering of order 2 with $D_0 = 30$

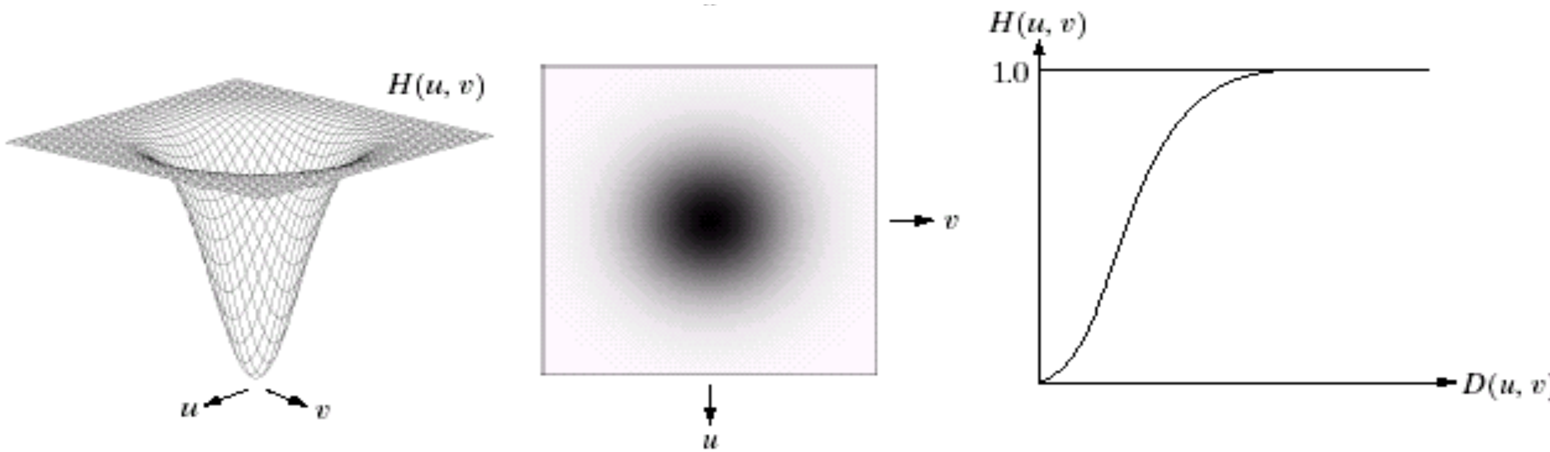
Results of Butterworth high pass filtering of order 2 with $D_0 = 80$

Gaussian High Pass Filters

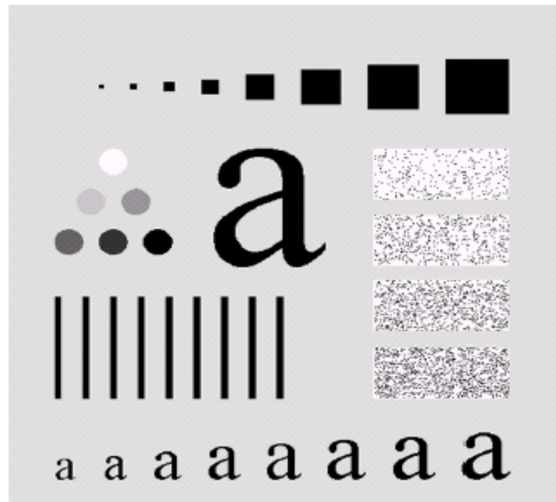
The Gaussian high pass filter is given as:

$$H(u,v) = 1 - e^{-D^2(u,v)/2D_0^2}$$

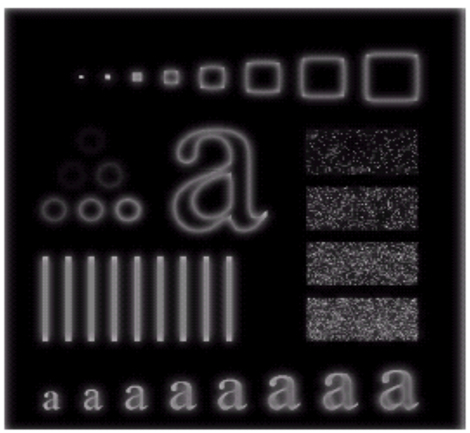
where D_0 is the cut off distance as before

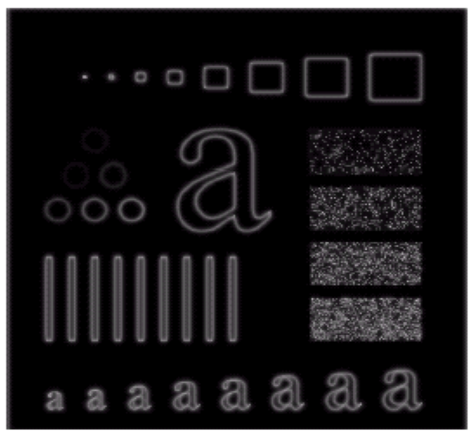


Gaussian High Pass Filters (cont…)



Results of Gaussian high pass filtering with $D_0 = 15$

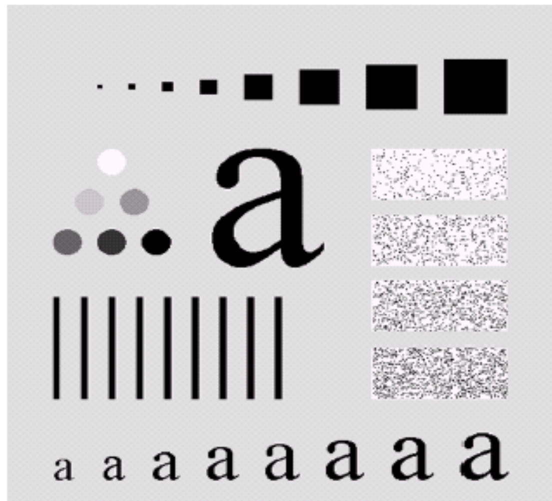


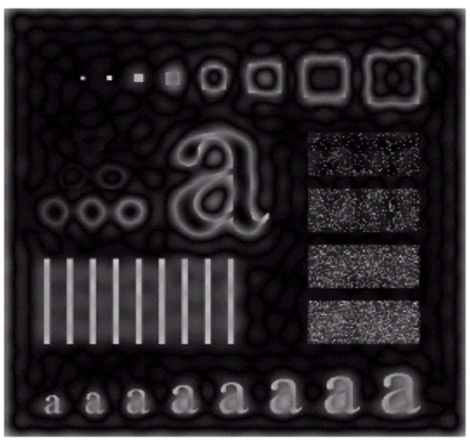


Results of Gaussian high pass filtering with $D_0 = 80$

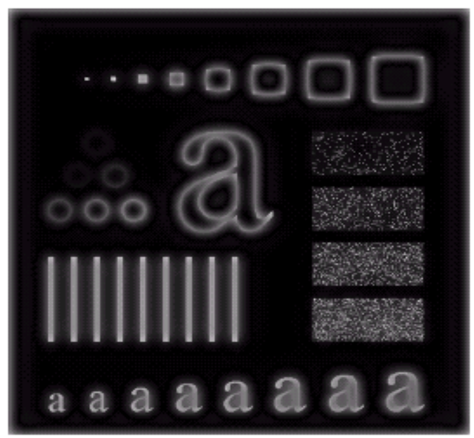
Results of Gaussian high pass filtering with $D_0 = 30$

Highpass Filter Comparison

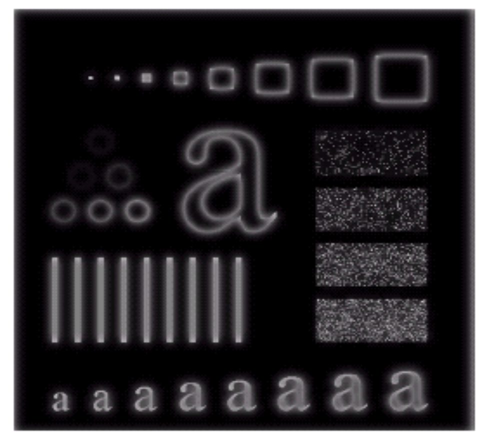




Results of ideal high pass filtering with $D_0 = 15$



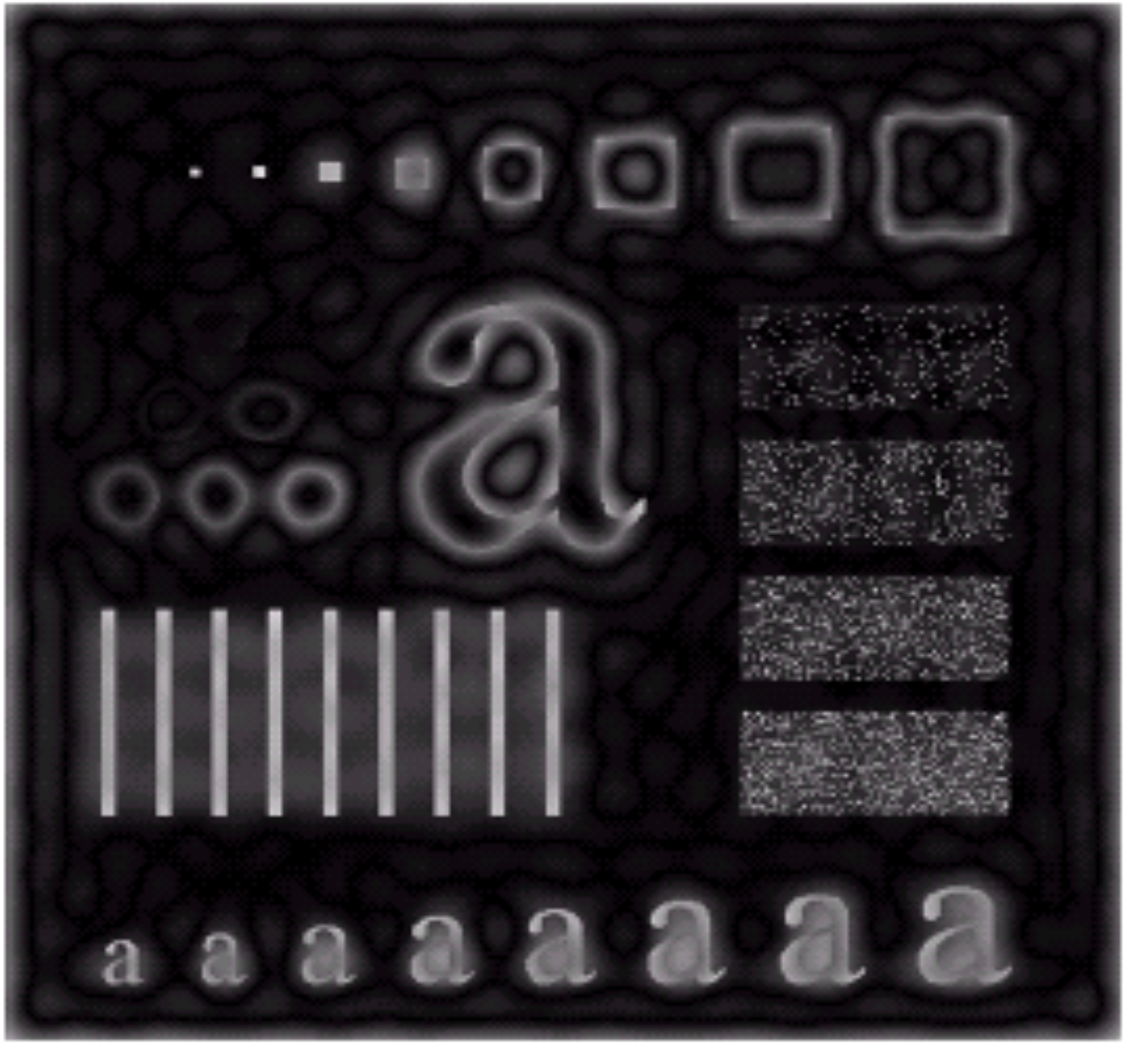
Results of Butterworth high pass filtering of order 2 with $D_0 = 15$



Results of Gaussian high pass filtering with $D_0 = 15$

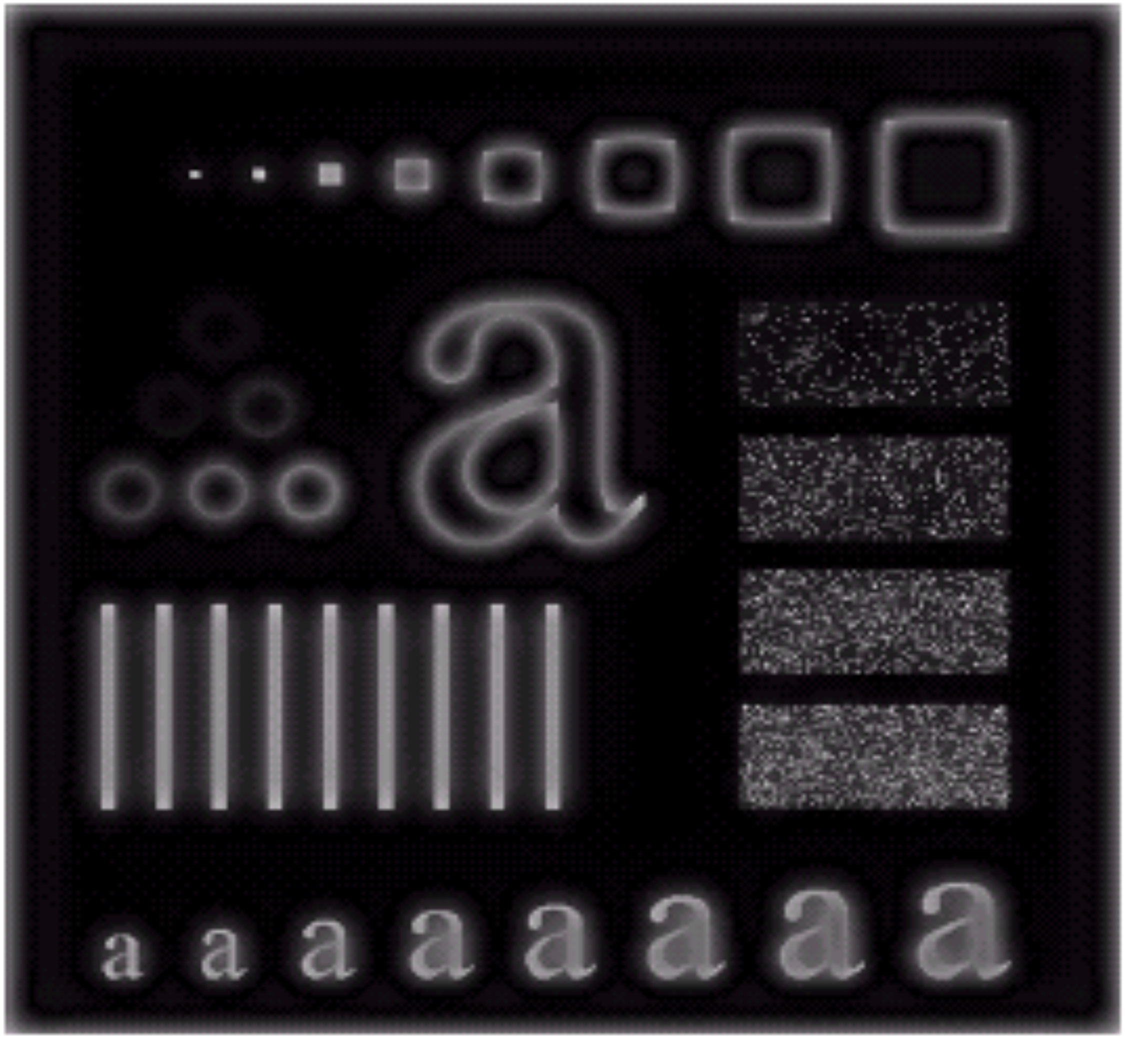
Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Highpass Filter Comparison



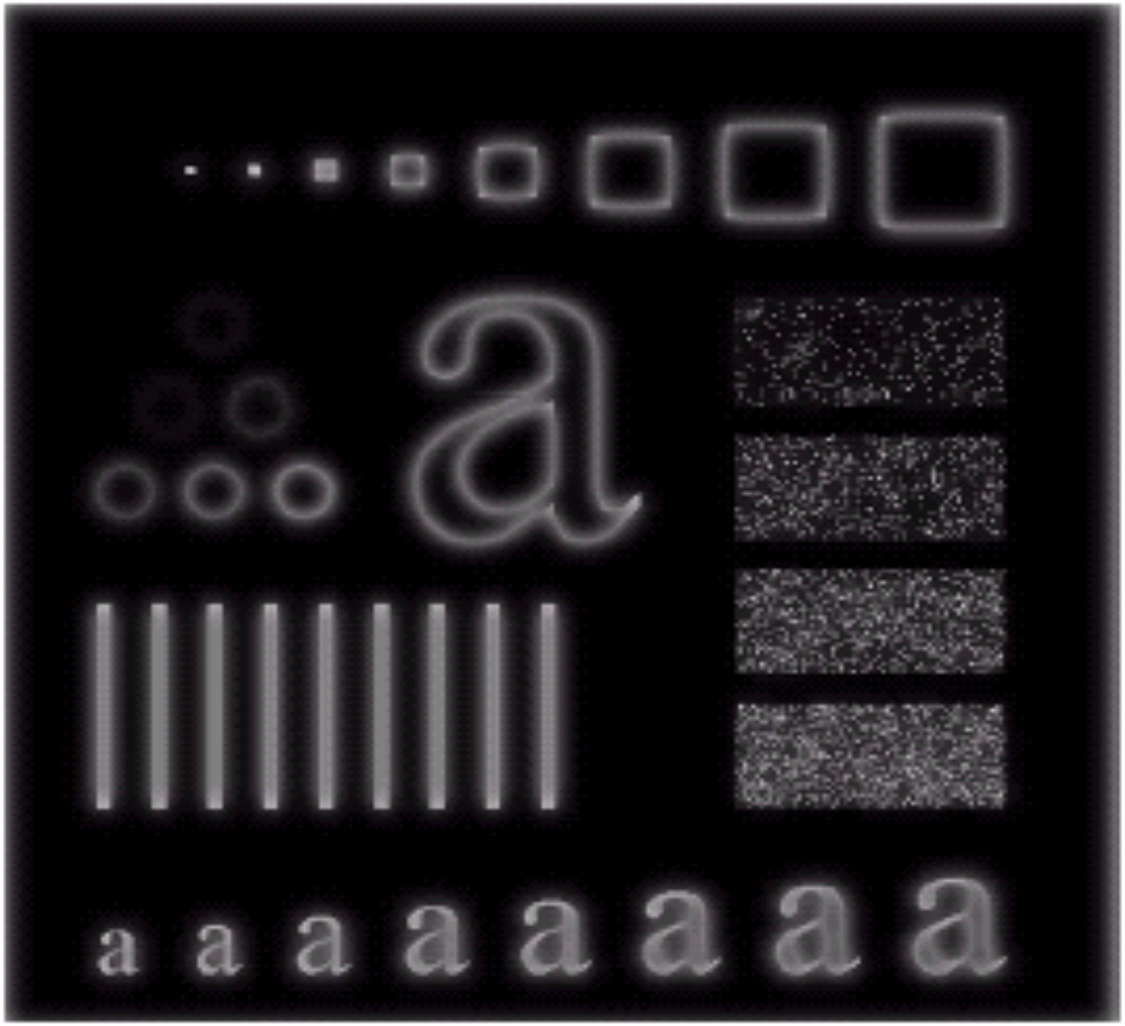
Results of ideal high pass filtering with D_0 = 15

Highpass Filter Comparison



Results of Butterworth high pass filtering of order 2 with D_0 = 15

Highpass Filter Comparison



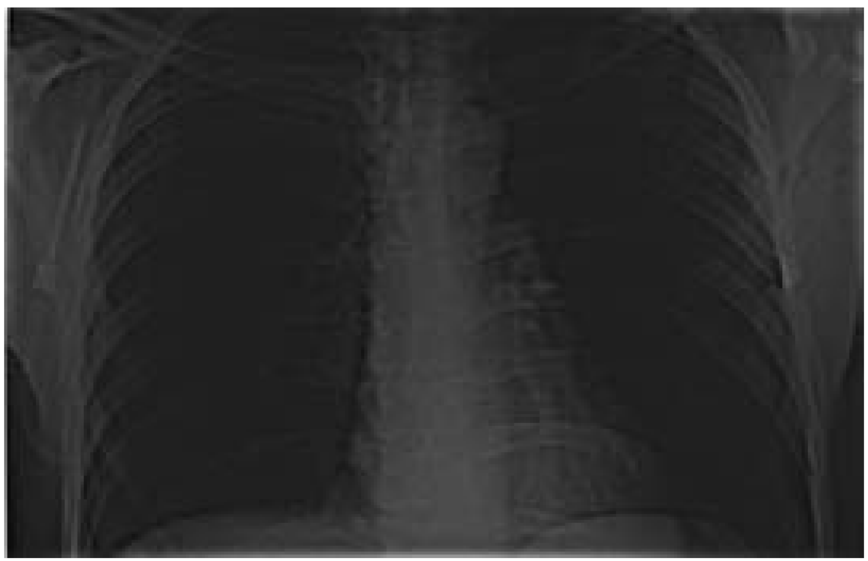
Results of Gaussian high pass filtering with D_0 = 15

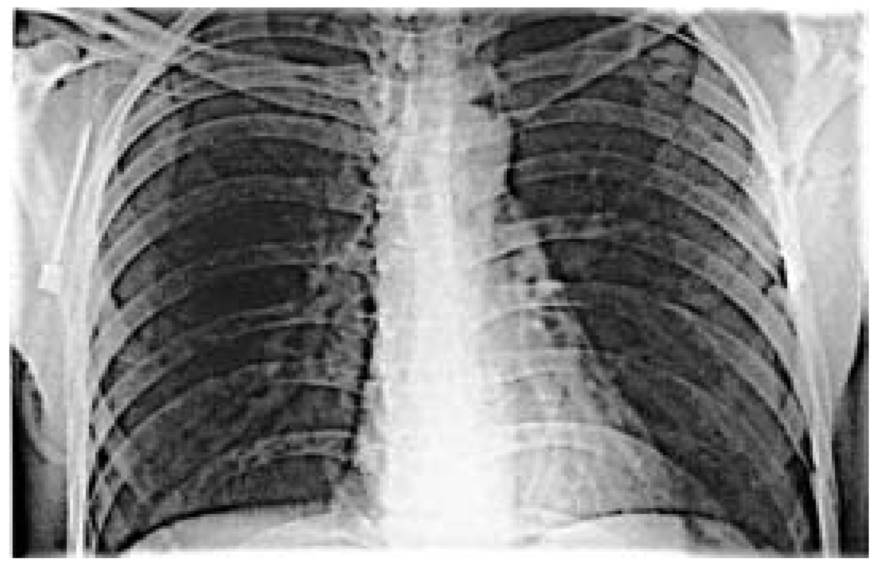
Highpass Filtering Example

Original image

Highpass filtering result

High frequency emphasis result





After histogram equalisation

Images taken from Gonzalez & Woods, Digital Image Processing (2002)

Fast Fourier Transform

The reason that Fourier based techniques have become so popular is the development of the *Fast Fourier Transform (FFT)* algorithm

Allows the Fourier transform to be carried out in a reasonable amount of time

Reduces the amount of time required to perform a Fourier transform by a factor of 100 – 600 times!

Frequency Domain Filtering & Spatial Domain Filtering

- Similar jobs can be done in the spatial and frequency domains
- Filtering in the spatial domain can be easier to understand
- Filtering in the frequency domain can be much faster – especially for large images

Summary

In this lecture we examined image enhancement in the frequency domain

- The Fourier series & the Fourier transform
- Image Processing in the frequency domain
  - Image smoothing
  - Image sharpening
- Fast Fourier Transform