# **Digital Image Processing**

Lecture One Introduction to Digital Image Processing

Sumaiya Fazal Dad

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Iqra National University Peshawar Campus



### Reference

# Digital Image Processing, Rafael C. by Gonzalez Richard E. Woods, Addison-Wesley, 2002

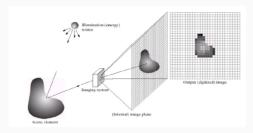


## **This Lecture Includes:**

- What is digital image?
- What is digital image processing?
- History of digital image processing
- Stat of the art examples of digital image processing
- Key stages in digital image processing



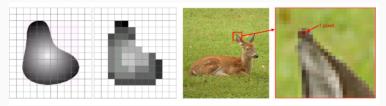
• A digital image is a representation of a two-dimensional image as a finite set of a digital values , called pictures elements or pixels.





#### What is Digital Image?

- Pixel values typically represent gray levels, colors, heights, opacities etc.
- Remember digitization implies that a digital image is an approximation of a real scene.





- Digital image processing focuses on two major tasks:
  - Improvement of pictorial information for human interpretation
  - Processing of image data for storage, transmission and representation for autonomous machine perception
- Some argument about where image processing ends and fields such as image analysis and computer vision start



• The continuum from image processing to computer vision can be broken up into low-, mid- and high-level processes

Low Level Process	Mid Level Process		High Level Process
Input: Image Output: Image	Input: Image Output: Attributes	ļ	Input: Attributes Output: Understanding
Examples: Noise removal, image sharpening	<b>Examples:</b> Object recognition, segmentation		Examples: Scene understanding, autonomous navigation



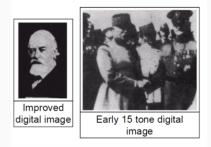
- Early 1920s: One of the first applications of digital imaging was in the newspaper industry
  - The Bartlane cable picture transmission service
  - Images were transferred by submarine cable between London and New York
  - Pictures were coded for cable transfer and reconstructed at the receiving end on a telegraph printer



Early digital image



- Mid to late 1920s: Improvements to the Bartlane system resulted in higher quality images
  - New reproduction processes based on photographic techniques
  - Increased number of tones in reproduced images





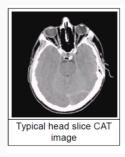
- 1960s: Improvements in computing technology and the onset of the space race led to a surge of work in digital image processing
  - 1964: Computers used to improve the quality of images of the moon taken by the Ranger 7 probe
  - Such techniques were used in other space missions including the Apollo landings



A picture of the moon taken by the Ranger 7 probe minutes before landing



- 1970s: Digital image processing begins to be used in medical applications
  - 1979: Sir Godfrey N. Hounsfield Prof. Allan M. Cormack share the Nobel Prize in medicine for the invention of tomography, the technology behind Computerised Axial Tomography (CAT) scans





- 1980s Today: The use of digital image processing techniques has exploded and they are now used for all kinds of tasks in all kinds of areas
  - Image enhancement/restoration
  - Artistic effects
  - Medical Visualisation + Diagnostics + Treatment Planning
  - Industrial inspection
  - Law enforcement
  - Human computer interfaces



• One of the most common uses of DIP techniques: improve quality, remove noise etc

