# Post-processing pipeline

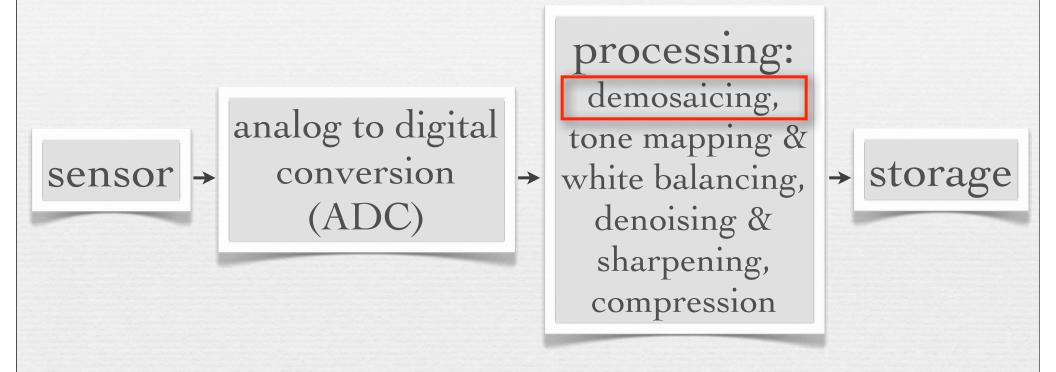
CS 178, Spring 2014

Begun 5/29/14, finished 6/3.



Marc Levoy
Computer Science Department
Stanford University

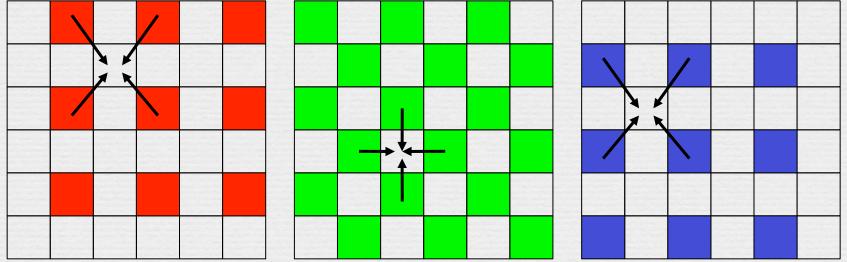
## Camera pixel pipeline



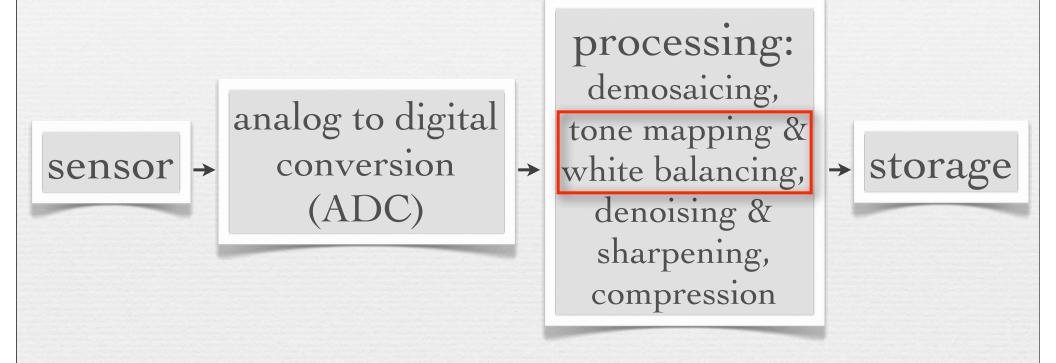
- every camera uses different algorithms
- the processing order may vary
- → most of it is proprietary

## Demosaicing (review)

- → linear interpolation
  - average of the 4 nearest neighbors of the same color
- → cameras typically use more complicated scheme
  - try to avoid interpolating across feature boundaries
  - demosaicing is often combined with denoising, sharpening...

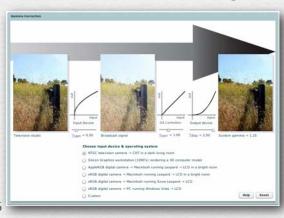


## Camera pixel pipeline



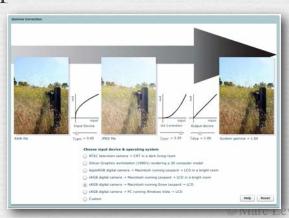
## Gamma and gamma correction

- ♦ the goal of digital imaging is to accurately reproduce <u>relative</u> scene luminances on a display screen
  - absolute luminance is impossible to reproduce
  - humans are sensitive to relative luminance anyway
- in some workflows, pixel value is made proportional to scene luminance, in other systems to perceived brightness
  - in CRTs luminance was proportional to voltage  $\gamma$  with  $\gamma \approx 2.5$ , so TV cameras were designed to output voltage  $\infty$  scene luminance  $\gamma$
  - pixel value ∝ luminance 1/2.5 is roughly perceptually uniform, so it's a good space for quantization, for example in JPEG files



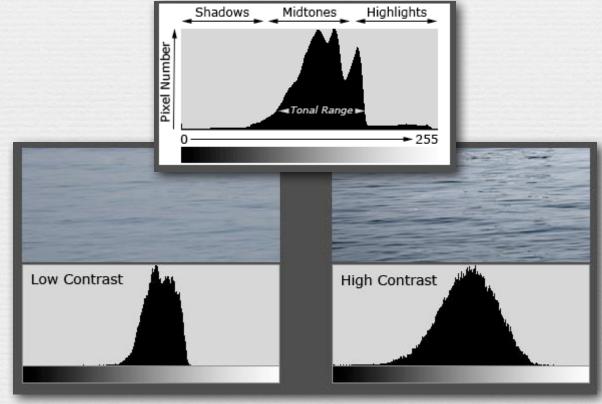
#### (FLASH DEMO)

http://graphics.stanford.edu/courses/cs178/applets/gamma.html



#### Contrast correction (a.k.a. tone mapping)

- manual editing
  - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
  - to expand contrast, apply an S-curve to pixel values



#### Contrast correction (a.k.a. tone mapping)

- manual editing
  - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
  - to expand contrast, apply an S-curve to pixel values
- ◆ gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
  - output = input $^{\gamma}$  (for  $0 \le I_i \le 1$ )
  - simple but crude



original



y = 0.5

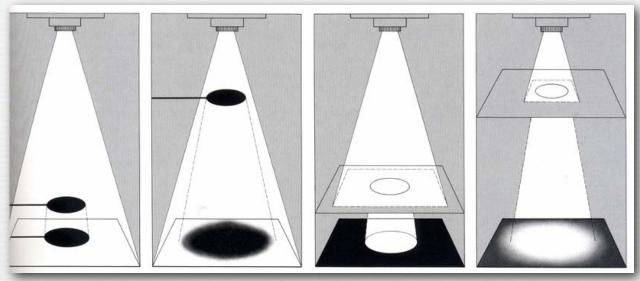


y = 2.0

#### Contrast correction (a.k.a. tone mapping)

- manual editing
  - capture image in RAW mode, then fiddle with histogram in Photoshop, dcraw, Canon Digital Photo Professional, etc.
  - to expand contrast, apply an S-curve to pixel values
- ◆ gamma transform (in addition to RAW→JPEG gamma)
  - output = input<sup> $\gamma$ </sup> (for  $0 \le I_i \le 1$ )
  - simple but crude
- → global versus local transformations

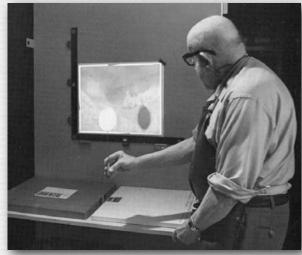
## Traditional dodging and burning



dodging (leaves print lighter)

burning (makes print darker)

Ansel Adams in his darkroom





(Adams)

(Rudman)



straight print

Ansel Adams, Clearing Winter Storm, 1942



toned print

Ansel Adams, Clearing Winter Storm, 1942

### Recap

- in CRTs luminance = voltage  $\gamma$  where  $\gamma \approx 2.5$ , so television cameras output luminance  $\gamma$  to compensate
  - NTSC cameras use luminance<sup>0.5</sup>, yielding a *system gamma*, to compensate for human  $\partial ark$  adaptation during viewing
- digital cameras also gamma transform sensed pixels before storing them in JPEG files
  - while this matches television cameras, another good reason is perceptual uniformity, thereby reducing quantization artifacts
  - for sRGB cameras,  $\gamma = 1/2.2$
- ◆ tone mapping methods may include
  - contrast expansion
  - additional gamma mapping
  - local methods, like dodging & burning

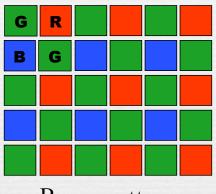


## High dynamic range (HDR) imaging

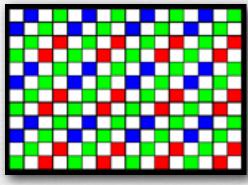
- → step 1: capturing HDR images
- → step 2a: direct display of HDR images, or
- \* step 2b: tone mapping to create an LDR image for display

## Capturing HDR images

→ alternative color filter arrays



Bayer pattern

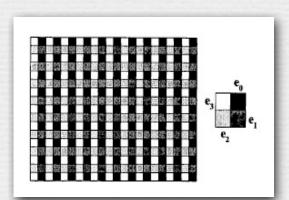


RGBC (a.k.a. RGBW)

- ♦ per-pixel neutral density filters [Nayar CPVR 2000]
  - trades spatial resolution for dynamic range
  - throws away photons



Sony



Marc Levo



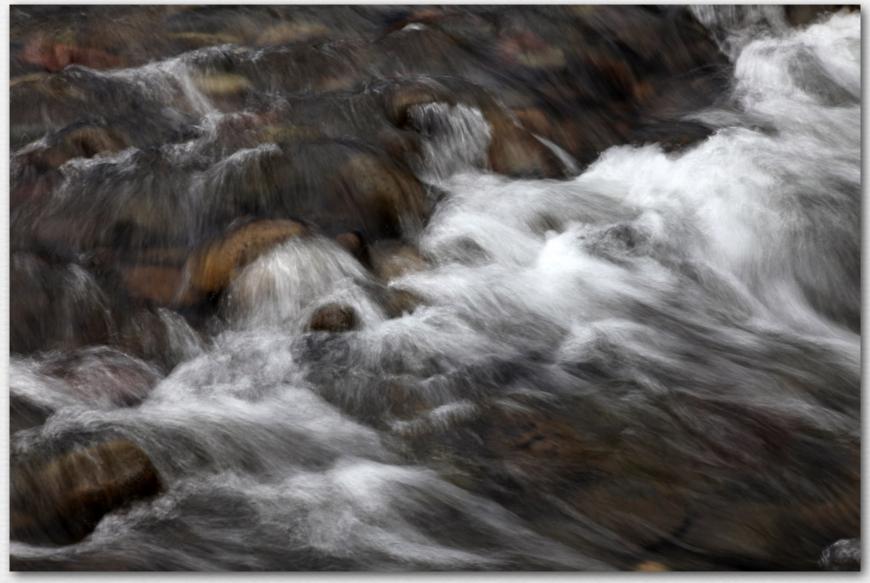
1/500s, f/5.6, ISO 800



1/125s



1/30s

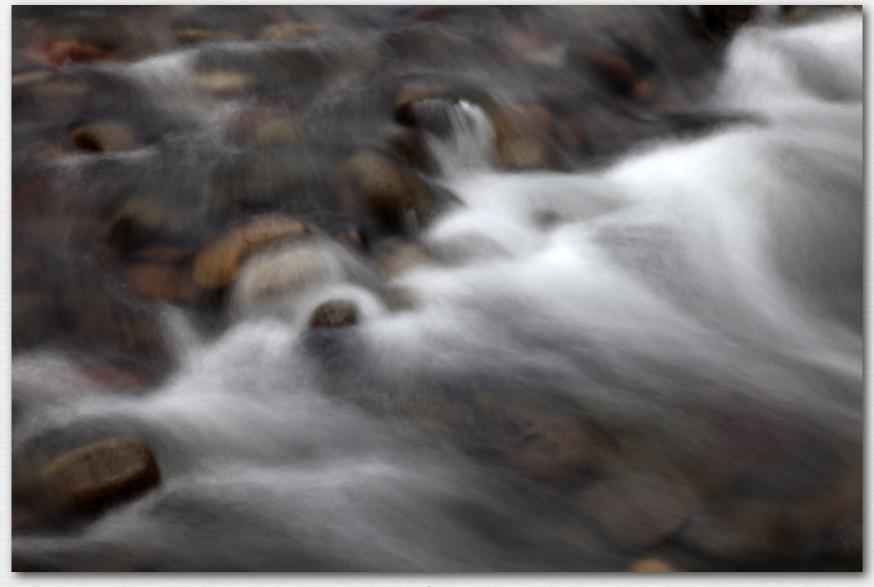


1/8s

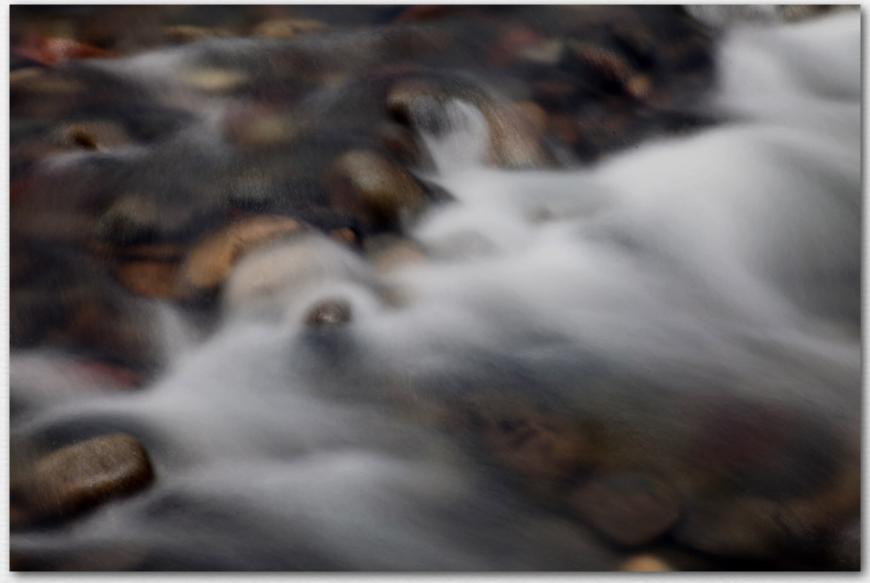


1/2s

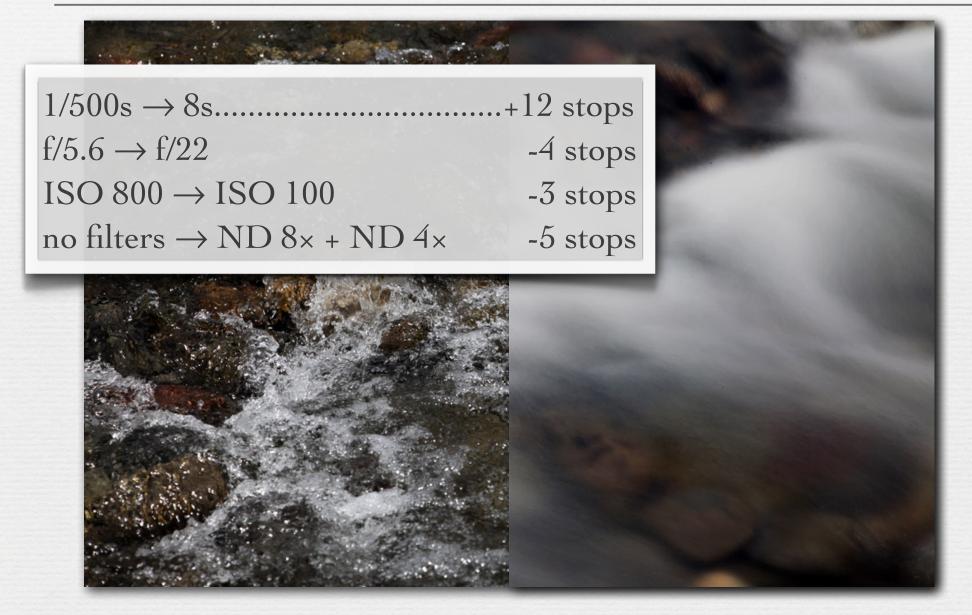
© Marc Levoy

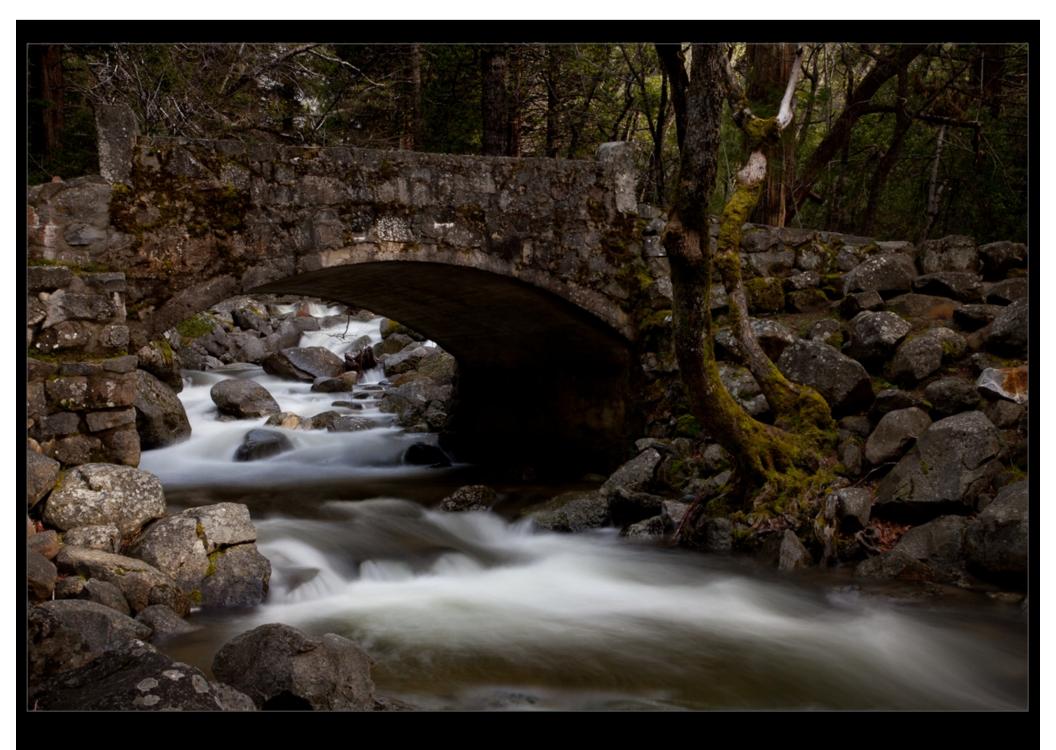


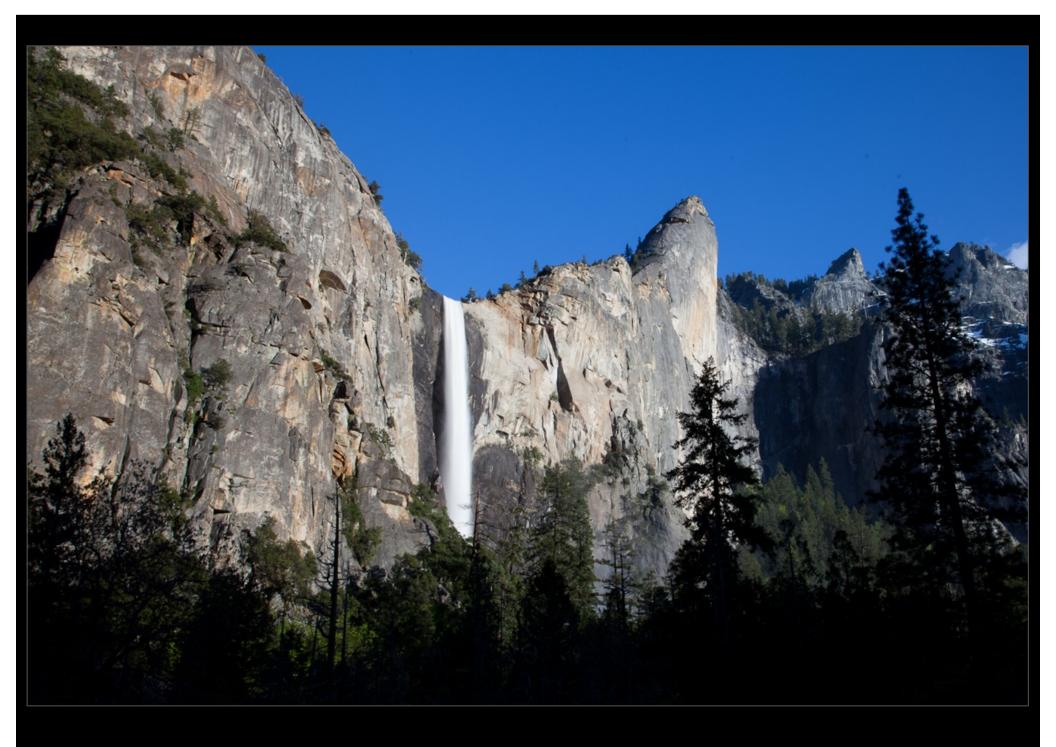
2s



8s

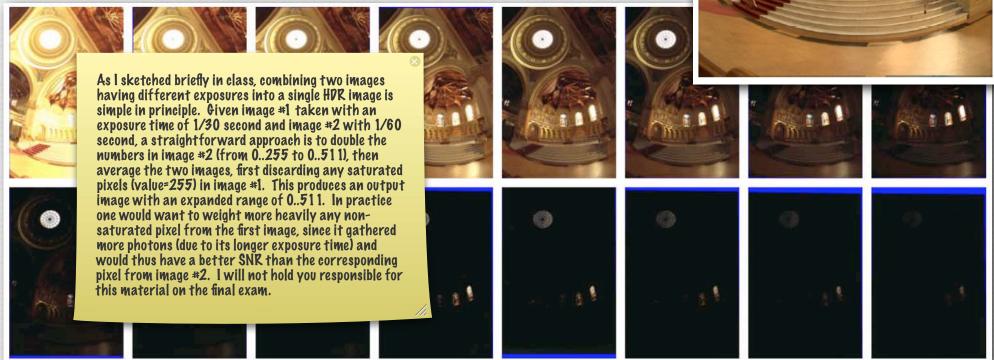






## Capturing HDR images

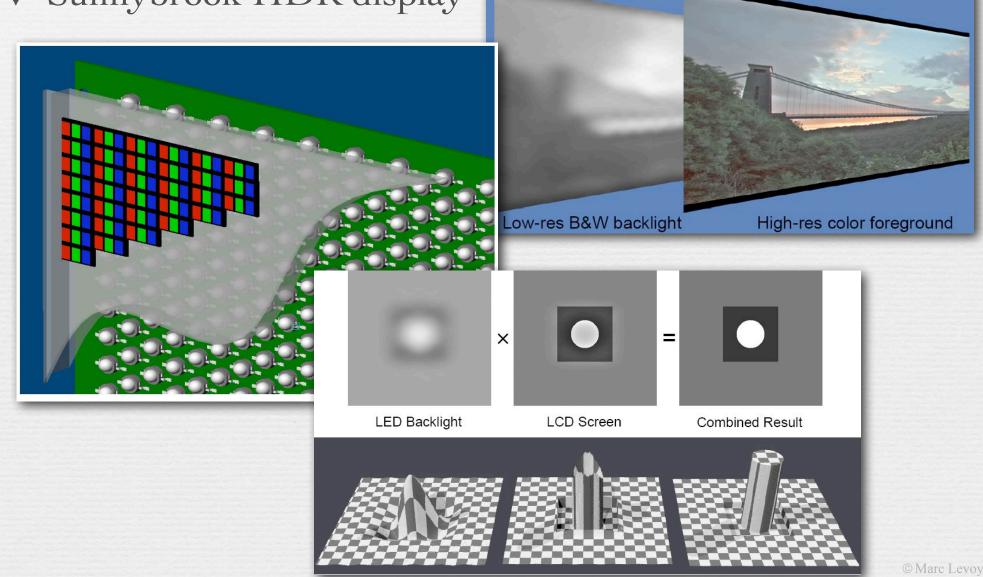
- → multiple bracketed exposures [Debevec SIGGRAPH 1997]
- changing the exposure time is usually better than changing the aperture
- Q. How about changing the ISO?



## Direct display of HDR images

◆ Sunnybrook HDR display

26





Brightside HDR display



## High dynamic range (HDR) imaging

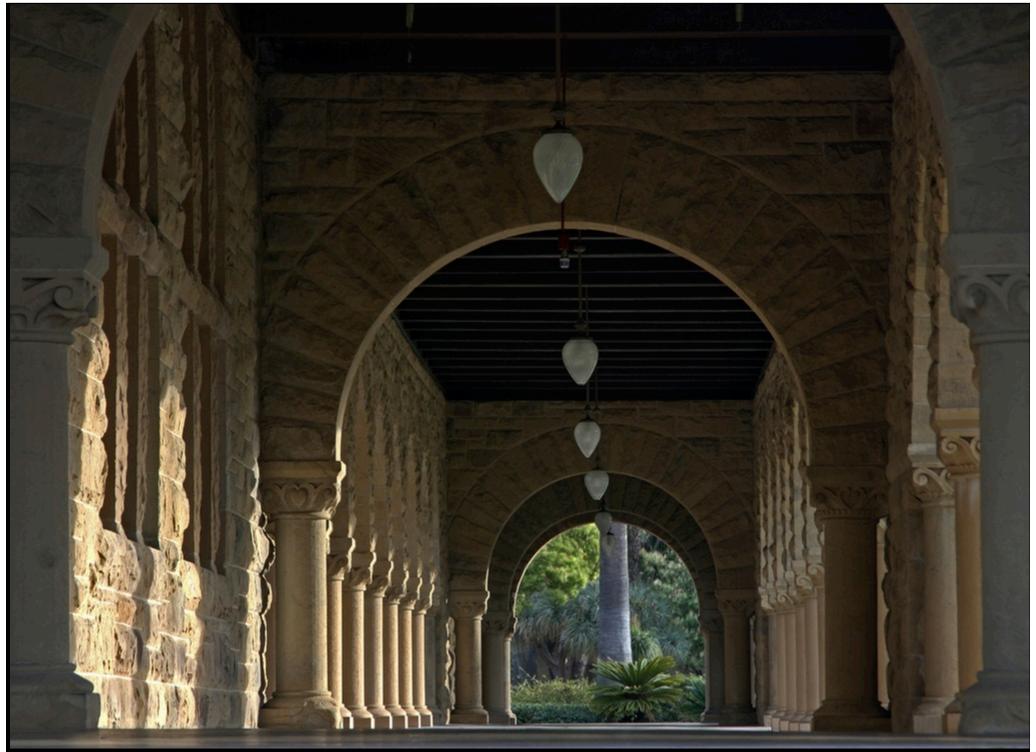
- → step 1: capturing HDR images
- \* step 2a: direct display of HDR images, or
- \* step 2b: tone mapping to create an LDR image for display

you're not responsible for HDR tone mapping on your final

- ◆ goals of HDR → LDR tone mapping
  - squeeze >12 bits of HDR image into 8 bits for JPEG
  - hint: just scaling the pixel values looks poor, as we'll see...







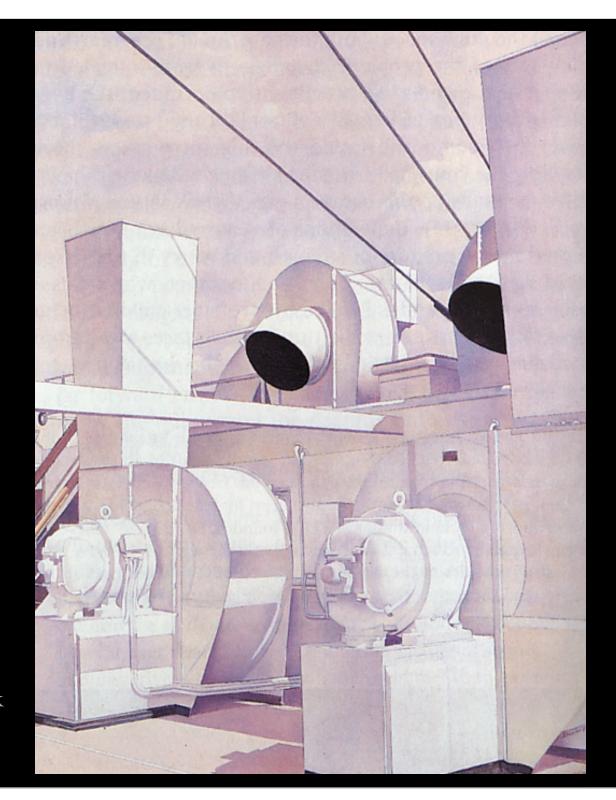


Cathedral, Valencia tone mapping in Photoshop CS4 by "exposure and gamma" method

(if gamma=1, this is just scaling the pixel values)



Cathedral, Valencia How do artists solve the tone mapping problem?



Charles Sheeler, The Upper Deck (1929)



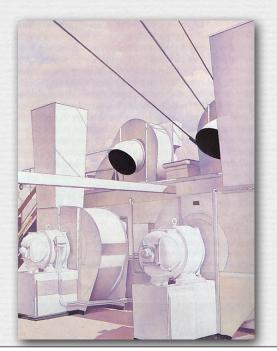
Joseph Wright, The Orrery (1765)

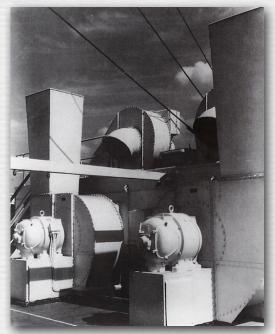
#### How do artists solve the tone mapping problem?

- for bright scenes
  - human vision is dazzled, compressing brightnesses
- for dark scenes
  - shadows are below threshold, so completely black



Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894) "The relation of optics to painting"

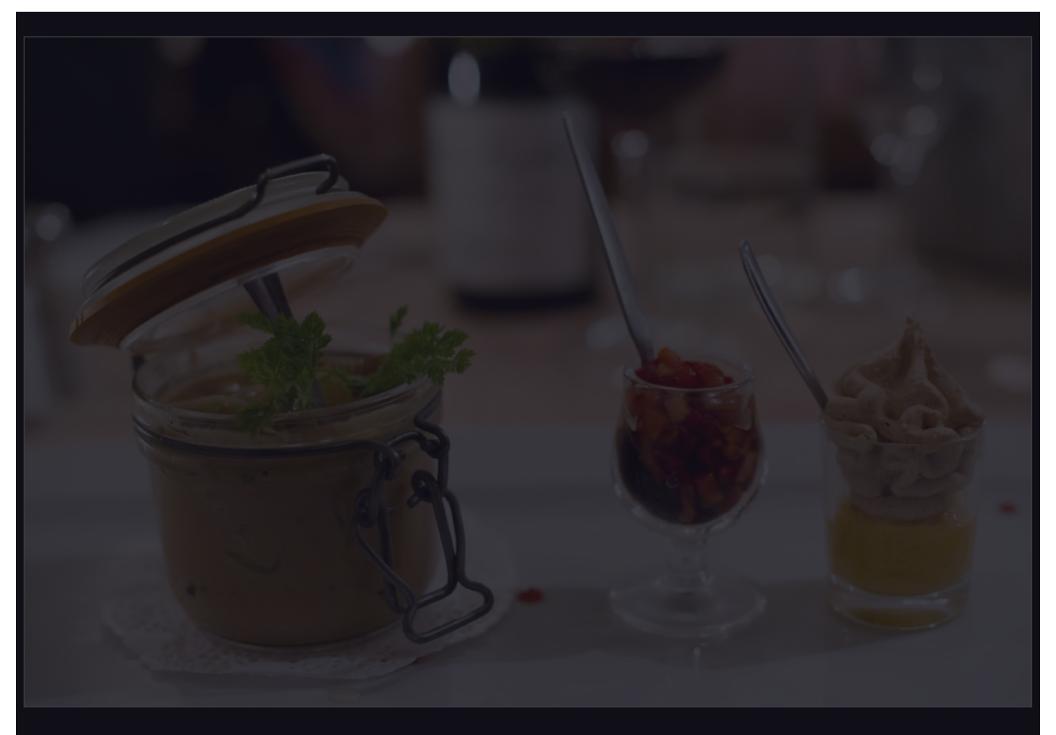




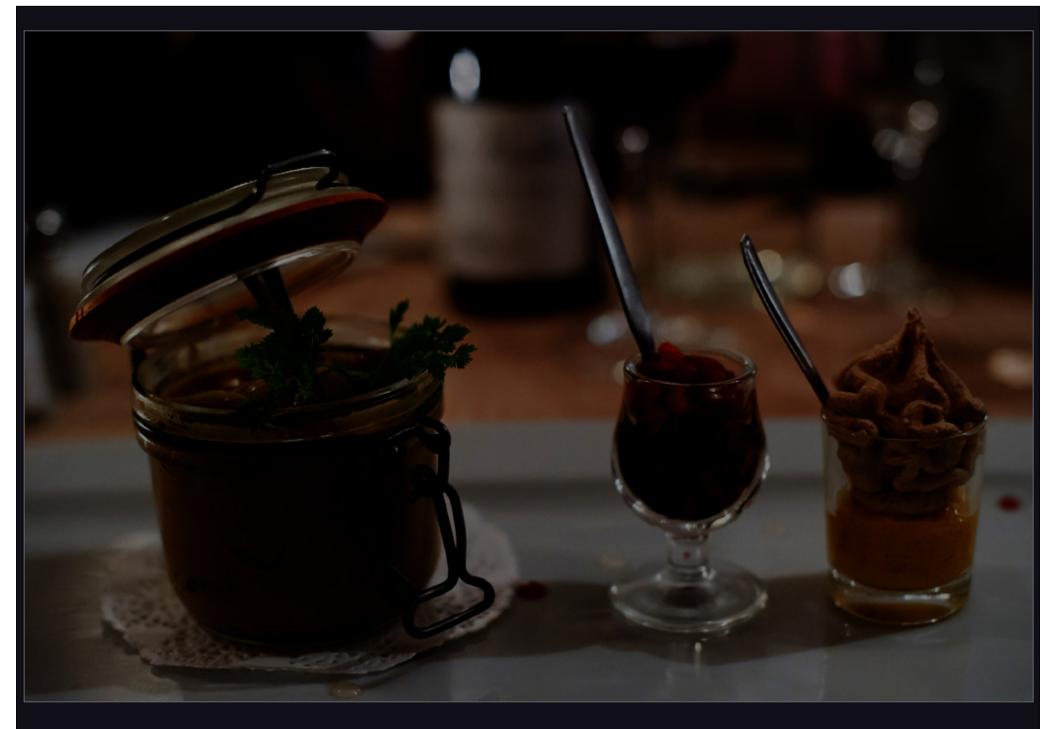




Nikon D3S, ISO 25,600, denoised in Lightroom 3, photograph by Fredo Durand



Linear scaling of pixel values (followed by RAW → JPEG gamma transform)



Thresholding of shadows (and maybe an additional S-curve)

#### Tone mapping for very HDR scenes

(slides from Fredo Durand)

- ◆ scene has >100,000:1 dynamic range, JPEG has 255:1
- ♦ how can we compress the scene's dynamic range?

- in the mapping shown here, the sun is blown out
- → if scaled linearly from 100,000:1
  scene to 255:1, almost all pixels would be dark



## Global tone mapping operators

- → gamma compression, applied independently on R,G,B
  - output = input $^{\gamma}$  ( $\gamma$  = 0.5 here)
- → colors become washed out

in addition to the gamma transform during RAW → JPEG conversion

input



output

 $(1.0, 0.4, 0.2)^{0.5} = (1.0, 0.63, 0.44)$ 





(try it yourself in Photoshop)



| 0.00  | -2.00 | 0.00  |
|-------|-------|-------|
| -2.00 | 9.00  | -2.00 |
| 0.00  | -2.00 | 0.00  |

#### Local tone mapping operators

- → reduce contrast of low frequencies, while preserving high frequencies [Oppenheim 1968, Chiu et al. 1993]
- produces halos!

low frequency



(e.g. Gaussian blur)

high frequency



(e.g. original minus Gaussian)

chrominance





## Local tone mapping operators

◆ bilateral filtering to compute large scale image without blurring across edges, remainder is detail image (no halos!); reduce contrast of large scale, while preserving details [Durand and Dorsey SIGGRAPH 2002]

large scale



detail

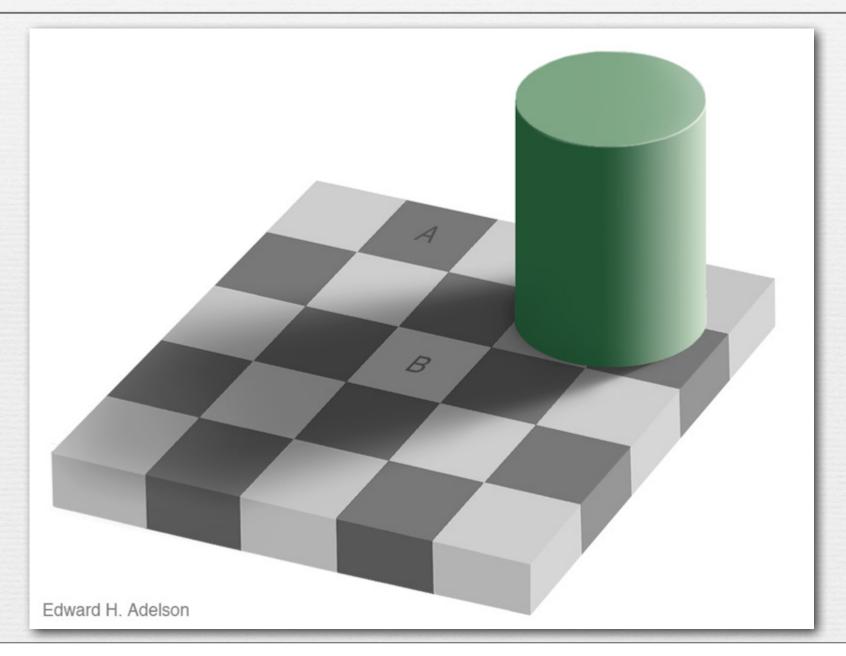


chrominance

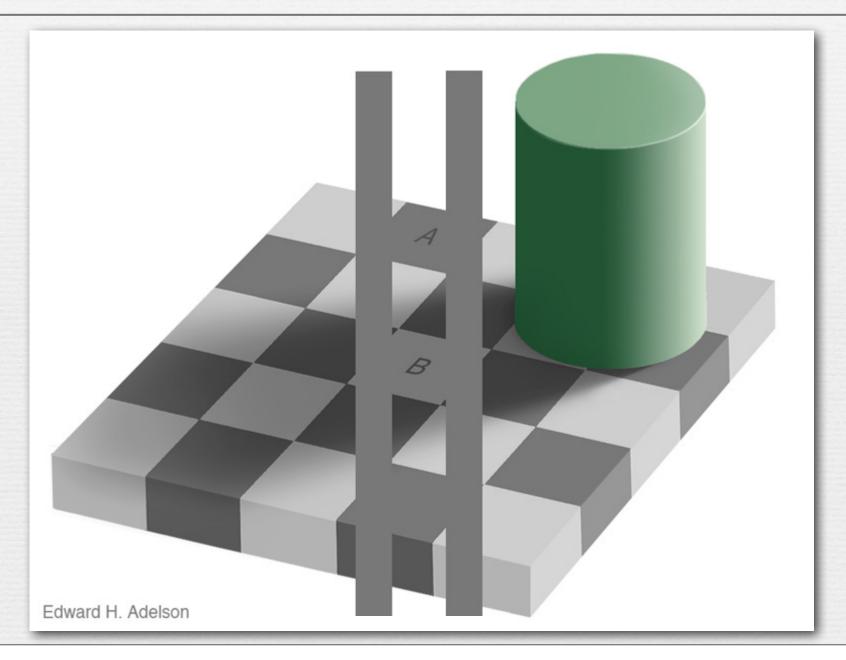




#### The importance of local contrast



## The importance of local contrast



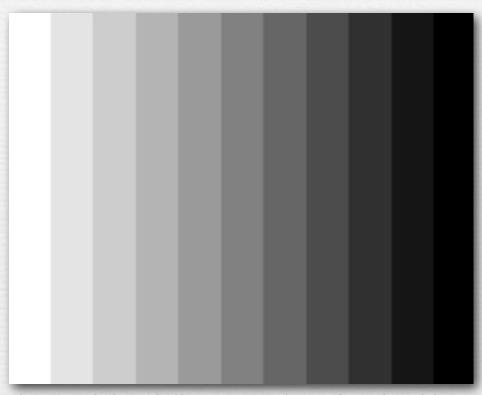
#### Tone mapping using bilateral filters

[Durand and Dorsey SIGGRAPH 2002]

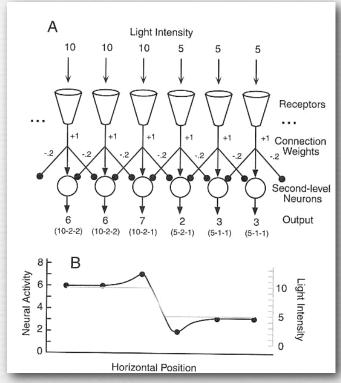




#### Mach bands and lateral inhibition



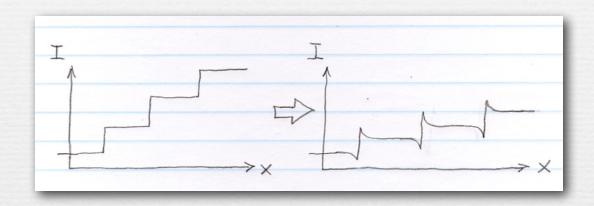
the Mach band illusion: each wedge should appear brighter on its right side



(Goldstein or Wolfe)

◆ lateral inhibition among receptive fields in the retina is equivalent to image convolution with a sharpening kernel

# Why might tone mapping look cartoony? (contents of whiteboard)

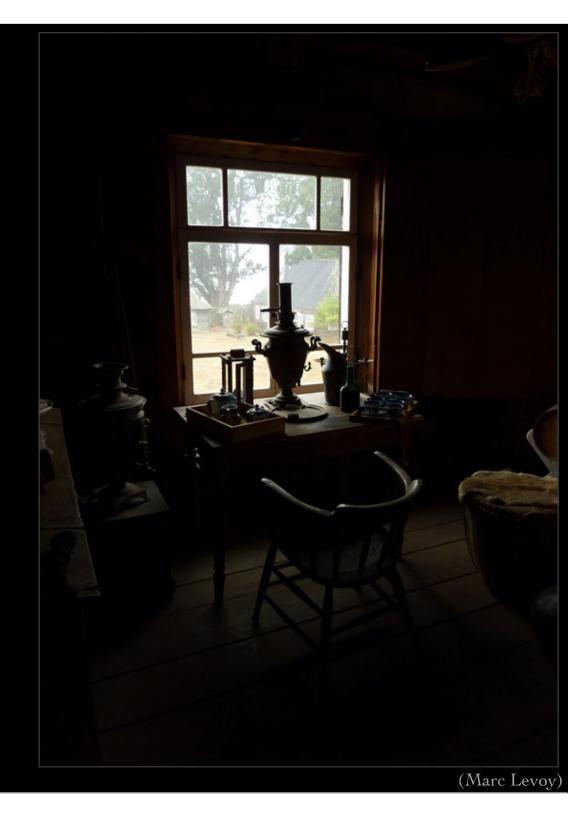


- → a step wedge (at left) is converted by a tone mapping operator that enhances local contrast to the plot at right
  - the human eye does this internally due to lateral inhibition, but that doesn't necessarily mean we want to present an image like this to the human eye!

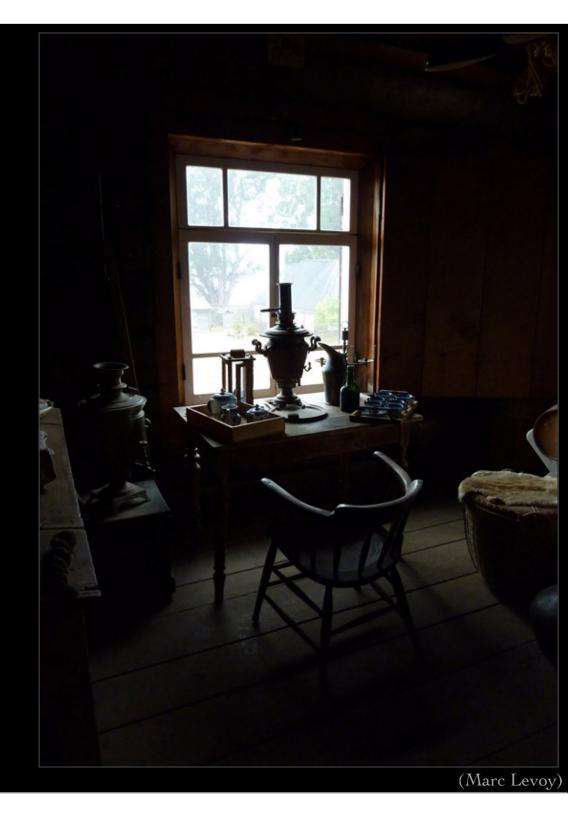


La Grande Jatte, Georges Seurat, 1884

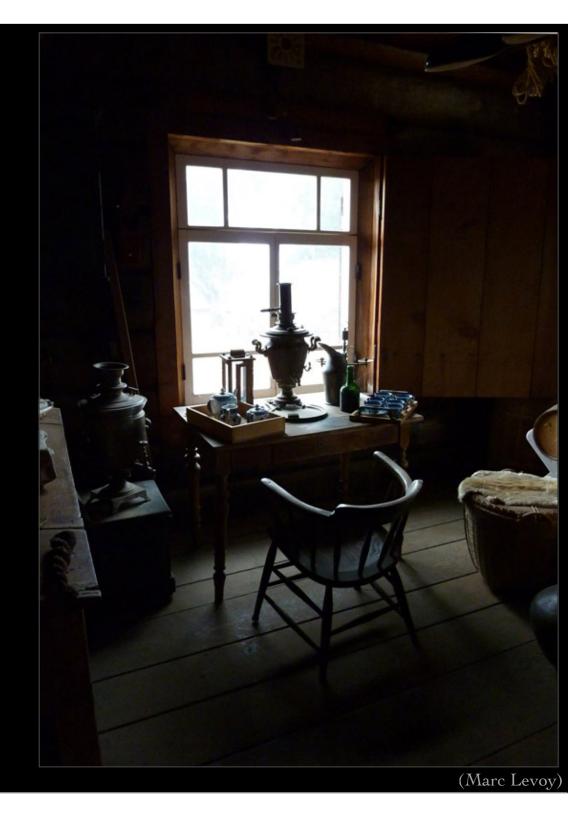
(Panasonic ZS3, 1/30s, ISO 125)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/30s, ISO 250)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/25s, ISO 400)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/13s, ISO 400)



(Panasonic ZS3, 1/8s, ISO 400)



(tone mapped HDR using Photomatix v3.3.2's "tone compressor" algorithm)











#### The HDR "look"



(Trey Ratcliff, http://www.stuckincustoms.com)

#### The HDR "look"



(Trey Ratcliff, http://www.stuckincustoms.com)

#### The HDR "look"

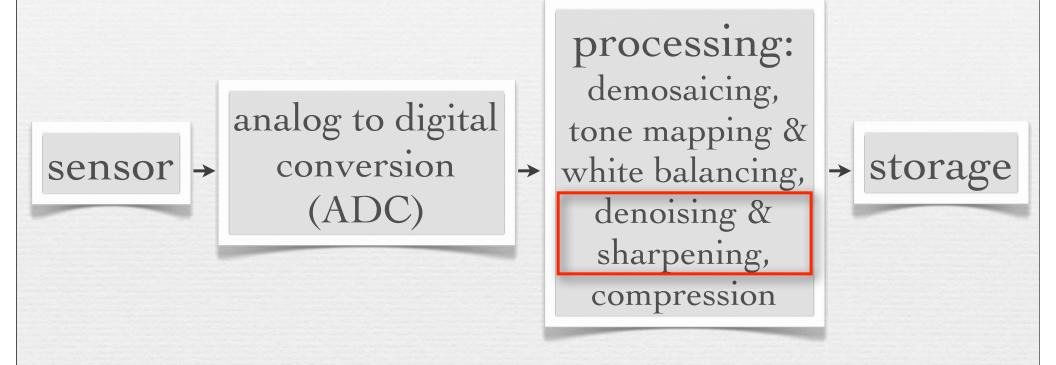


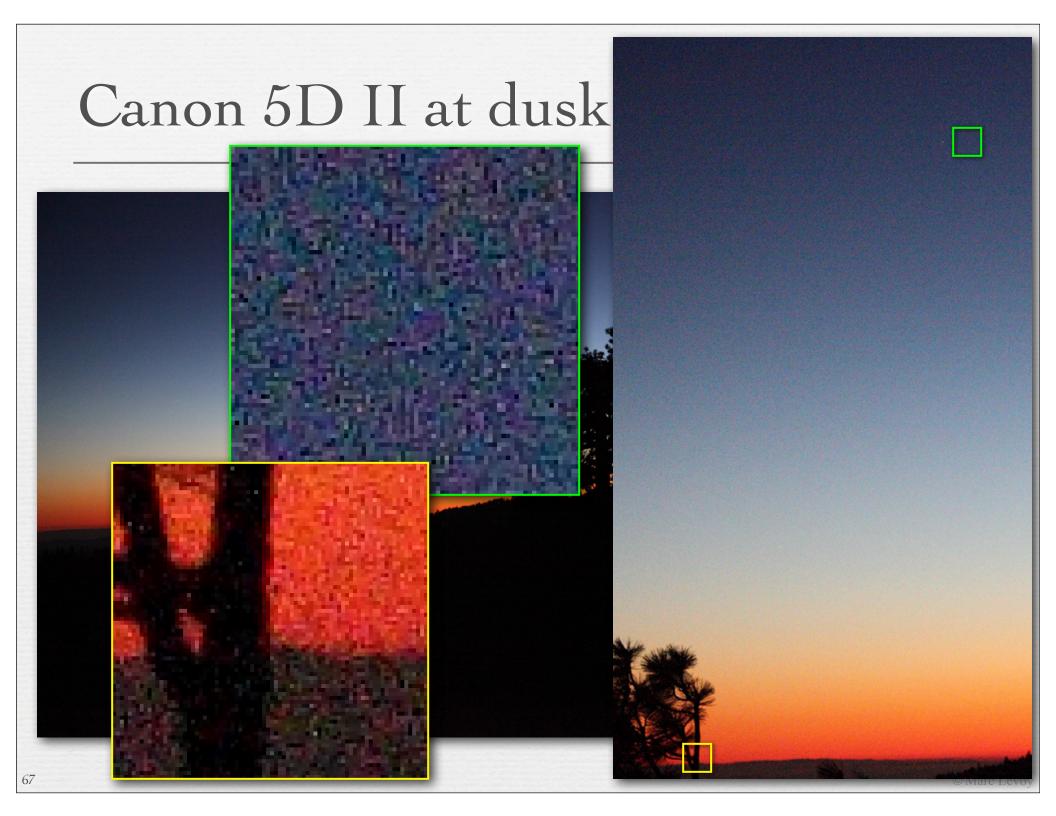
#### Recap

- ♦ high dynamic range (HDR) imaging is useful, and a new aesthetic
  - but is not necessary in all photographic situations
- ♦ low dynamic range (LDR) tone mapping methods can also be applied to HDR scenes
  - but reducing very HDR scenes to 8 bits for JPEG using only global methods is hard
- ◆ local methods reduce large-scale luminance changes (across the image) while preserving local contrast (across edges)
  - use bilateral filtering to avoid halos



# Camera pixel pipeline





#### Denoising



RAW (ISO 6400)



Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising

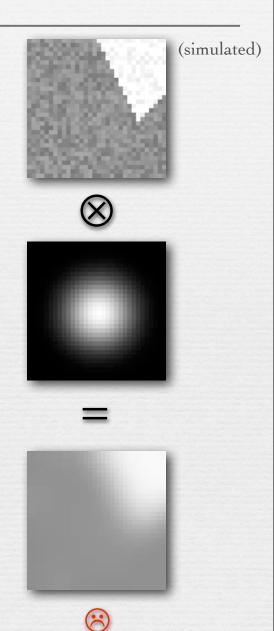
- → goal is to remove sensor noise
  - blurring works, but also destroys edges
  - I don't know what Canon does, but here's something that works...

#### Bilateral filtering [Tomasi ICCV 1998]

- images are often <u>piecewise constant</u>
   with noise added
  - in this case, nearby pixels are often a different noisy measurement of the same data

- → simple blurring doesn't work
  - because it also blurs the edges

- we should blur only within each constant-colored scene region
  - not across the edges between regions

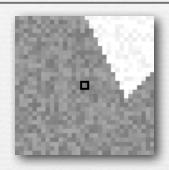


# Bilateral filtering

★ if the pixels are similar in intensity, they are probably from the same region of the scene

effective filter weights are thus different for each pixel of input

- → so perform a convolution where the weight applied to nearby pixels in the summation falls off
  - with increasing (x,y) distance from the pixel being blurred, and
  - with increasing intensity difference from the pixel being blurred
- → i.e. blur in ∂omain and range dimensions!







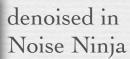
# Example of bilateral filtering

Women's gymnastics

(Canon 7D, 1/1000 sec, ISO 3200, f/1.8, 85mm)







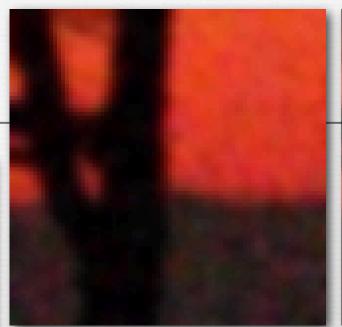


#### Denoising



RAW (ISO 6400)

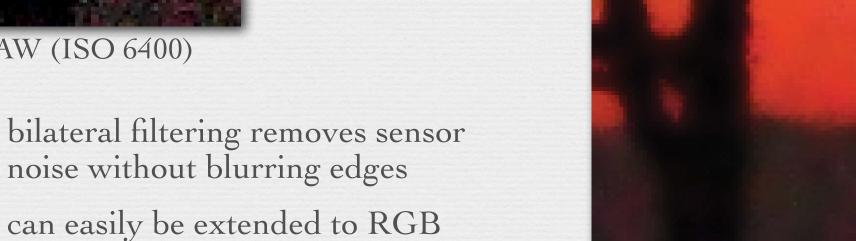
noise without blurring edges



Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising

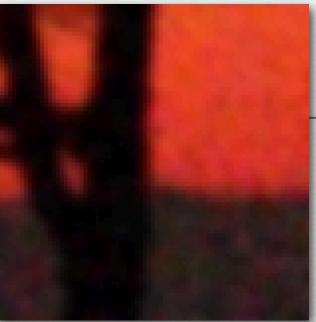


bilateral filtering

### Denoising



Gaussian blur, radius = 1.3



Canon denoising



- can be applied more (or less) strongly to chrominance than luminance
- → can be combined with demosaicing
- → active area of research...



bilateral filtering

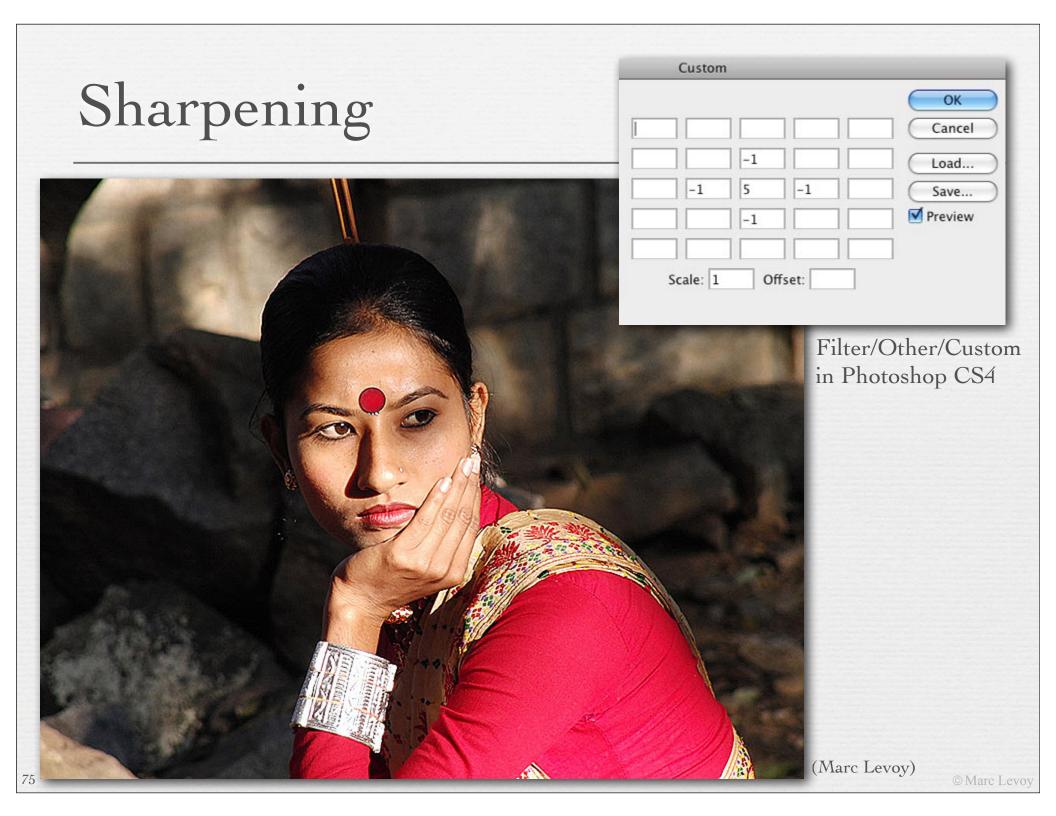
Marc Levoy

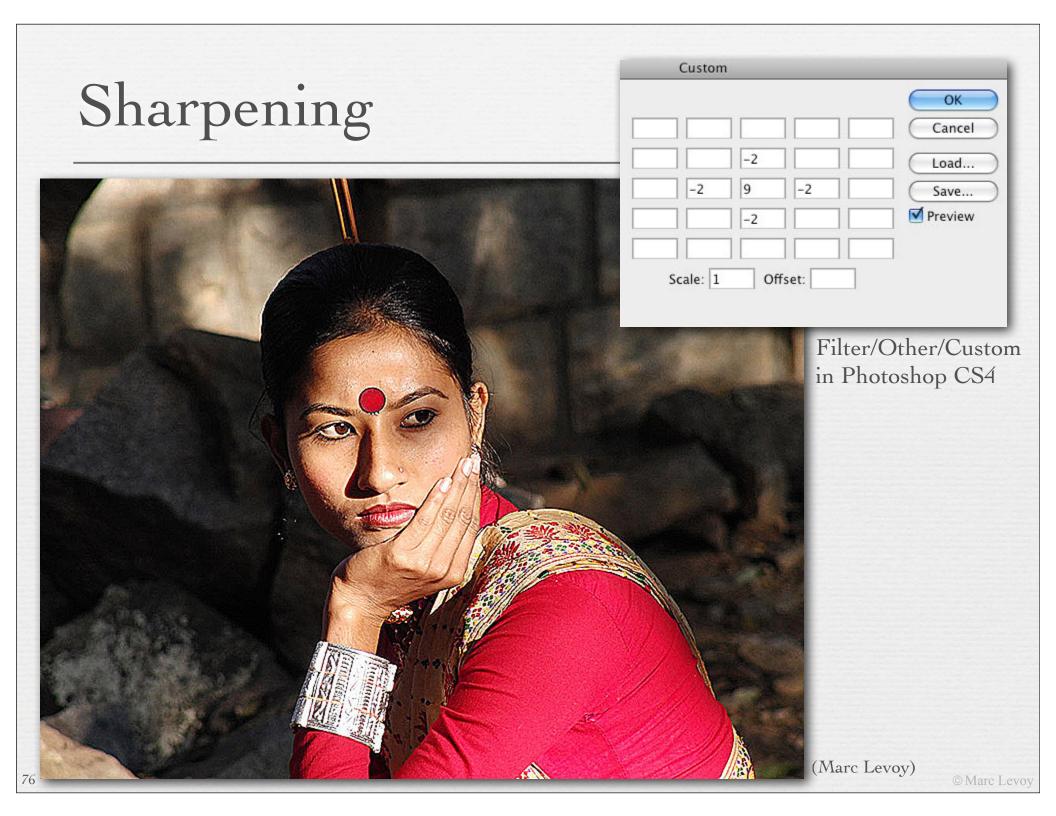
# Sharpening



original

(Marc Levoy)





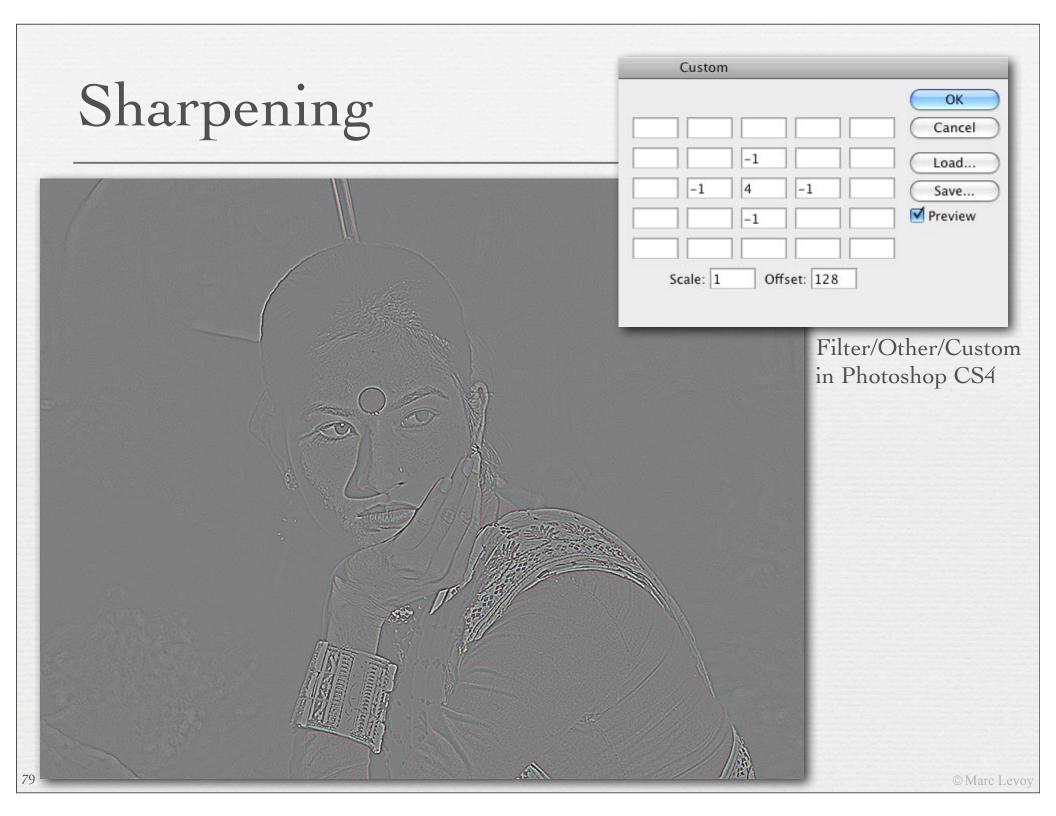
# Sharpening



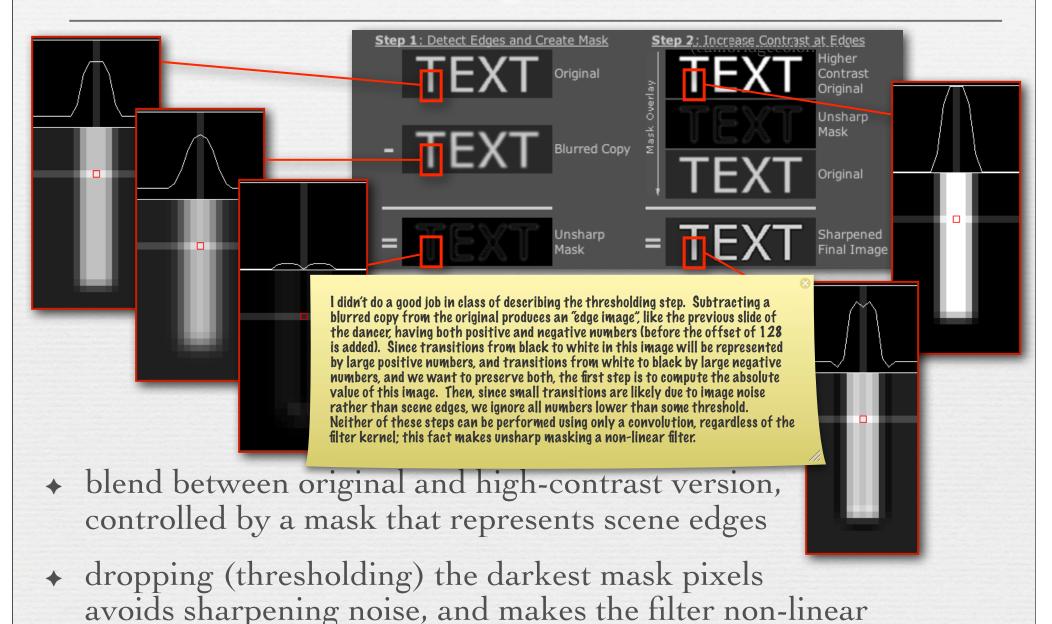
original

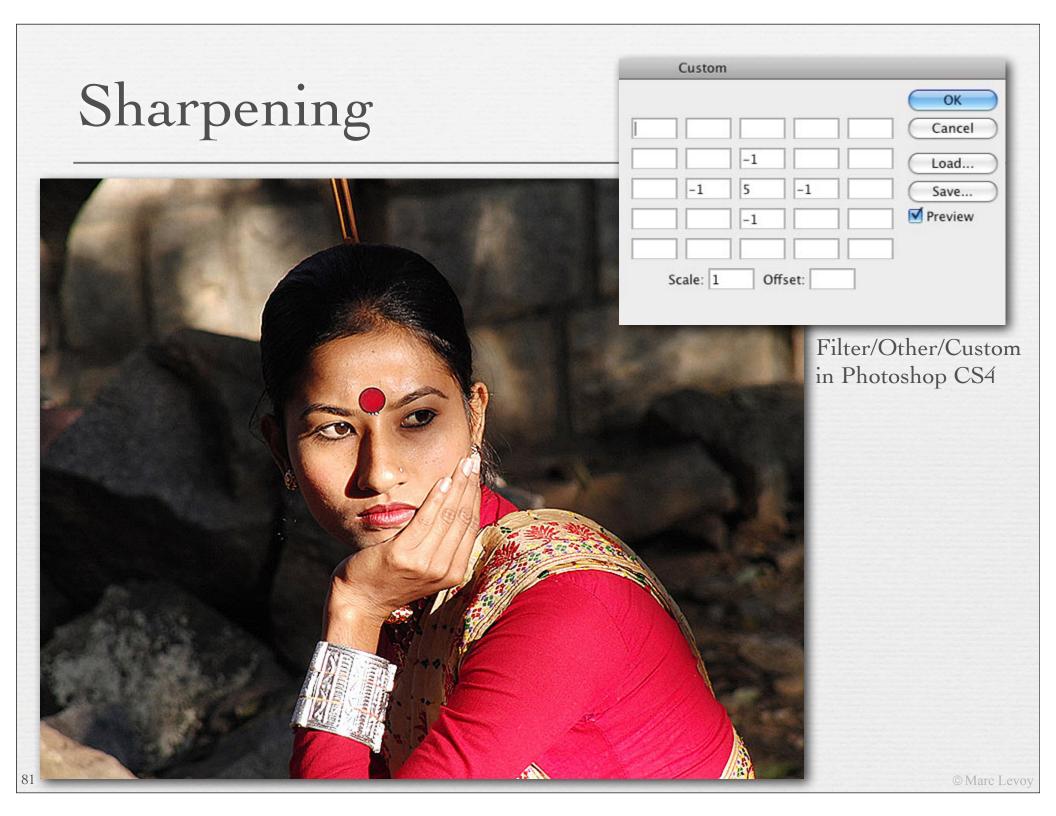
(Marc Levoy)



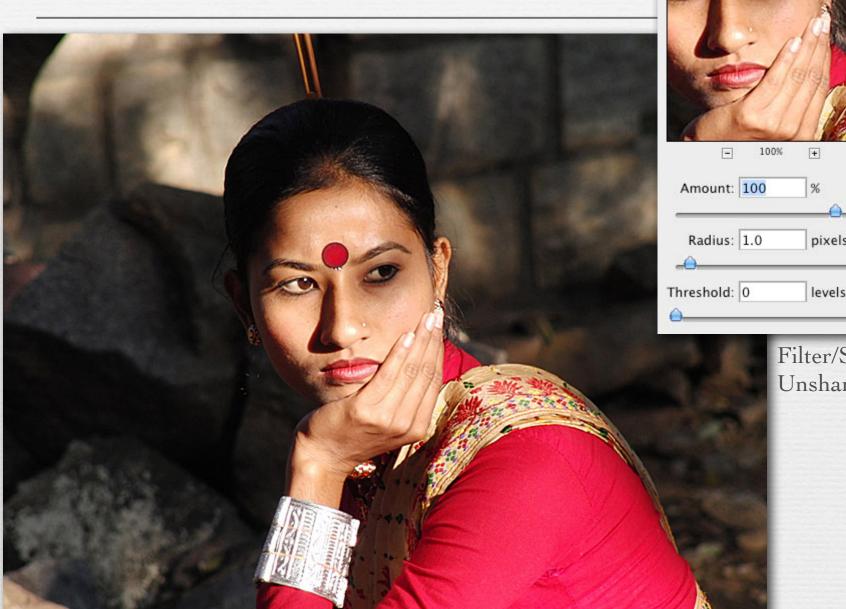


# Unsharp masking





# Sharpening



Cancel **▼** Preview pixels levels

Unsharp Mask

Filter/Sharpen/ Unsharp Mask in CS4

# Sharpening



original

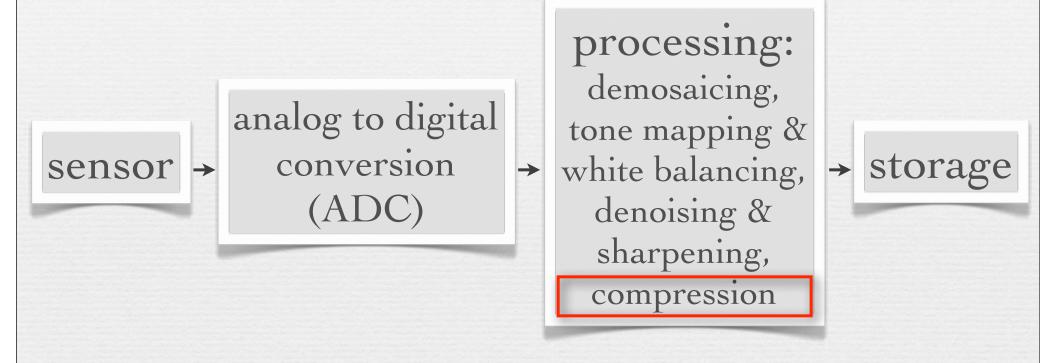
27

### Recap

- ♦ bilateral filtering reduces noise while preserving edges
  - replaces each pixel with a weighted sum of its neighbors, where the weight drops with increasing distance from the pixel in X and Y and with increasing intensity difference
- unsharp masking sharpens edges but doesn't sharpen noise
  - replaces each pixel with a weighted sum of the original and a contrast-enhanced version, using the latter along edges, where the edge mask is threshold (original-blur (original))
- ♦ both are non-linear filters
  - i.e. they are not convolutions by a spatially invariant filter kernel



## Camera pixel pipeline



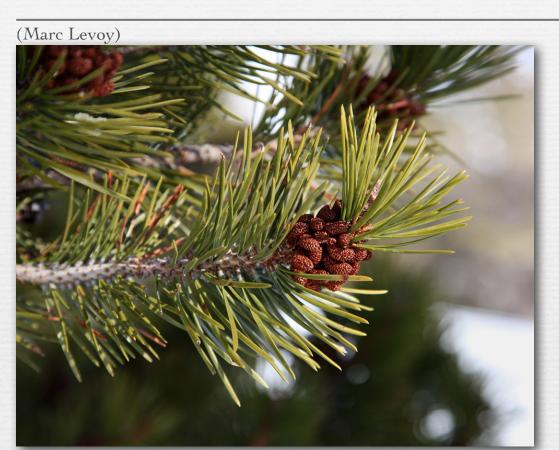
#### JPEG files

- → Joint Photographic Experts Group
  - organized 1986, standard adopted 1994
- → defines how an image is to be compressed (codec) into a stream of bytes, and the file format for storing that stream
  - file format is JFIF, but people use .JPG or .JPEG extensions
- → good for compressing images of natural scenes
  - not so good for compressing drawings or graphics
- $\star$  lossy, so loses quality each time you open  $\to$  edit  $\to$  save
  - especially if you crop or shift pixels (hence block boundaries)
  - for lossless compression, use PNG or TIFF

- ◆ Exchangeable Image File Format
  - created by Japan Electronic Industries Development Assoc.
- used by nearly every digital camera manufactured today
  - actually a file format
  - JPEG or TIFF file + metadata about the camera and shot
  - .JPG or .JPEG extension is used, not .EXIF

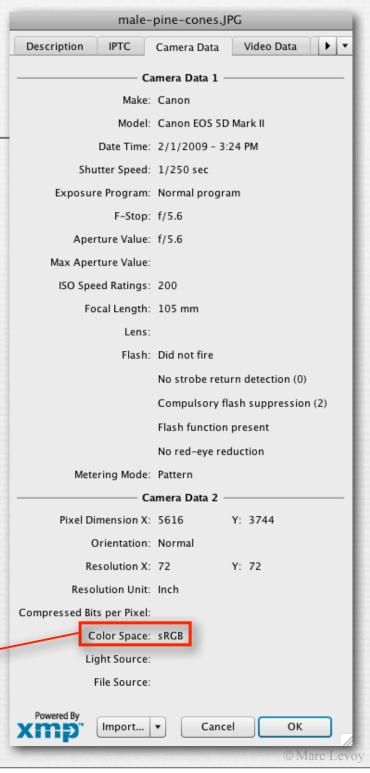
#### File/File Info in Photoshop CS4





shot with Canon 5D Mark II

Color Space: sRGB



Focal Length

: 105.0 mm



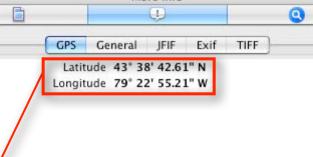
shot with Canon 5D Mark II

Focus Distance Upper Focus Distance Lower

: 0.7 : 0.67

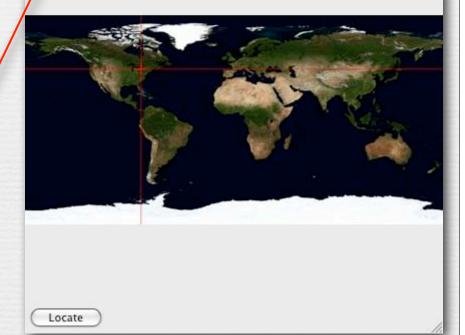
exiftool

Mac Preview





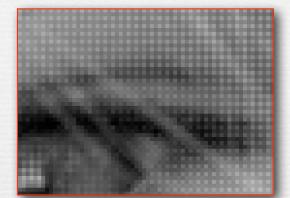
shot with iPhone 3G



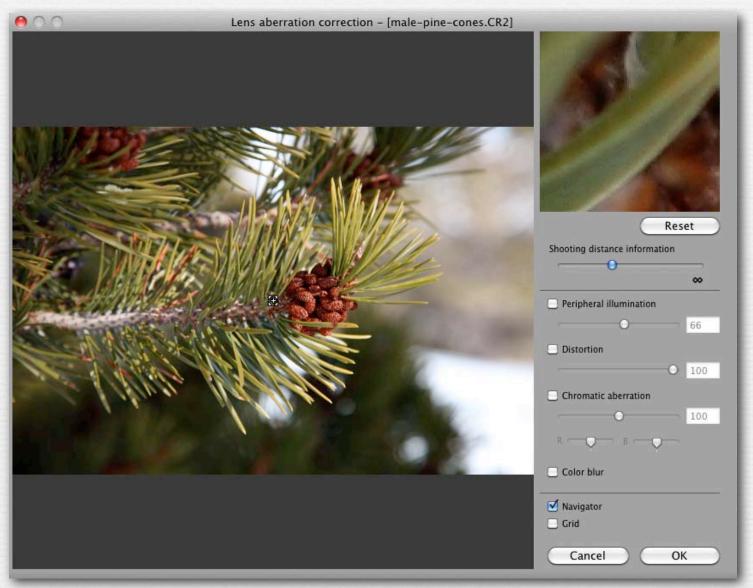
Latitude 43° 38' 42.61" N Longitude 79° 22' 55.21" W

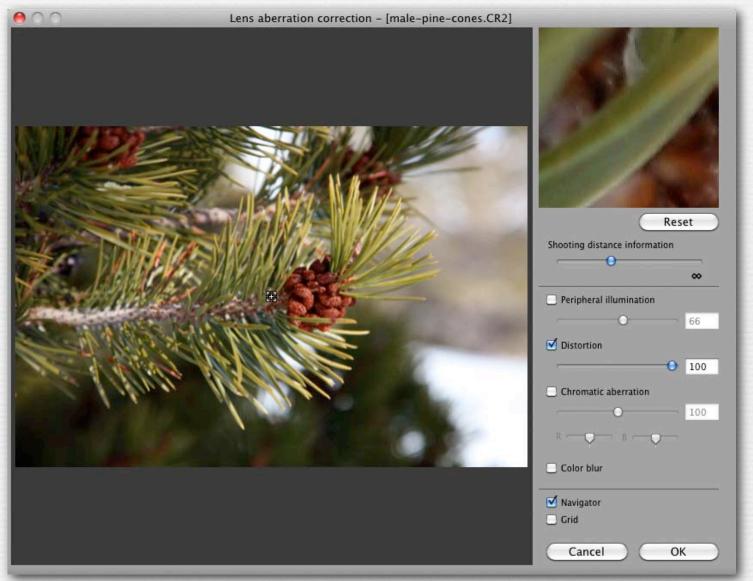
#### RAW files

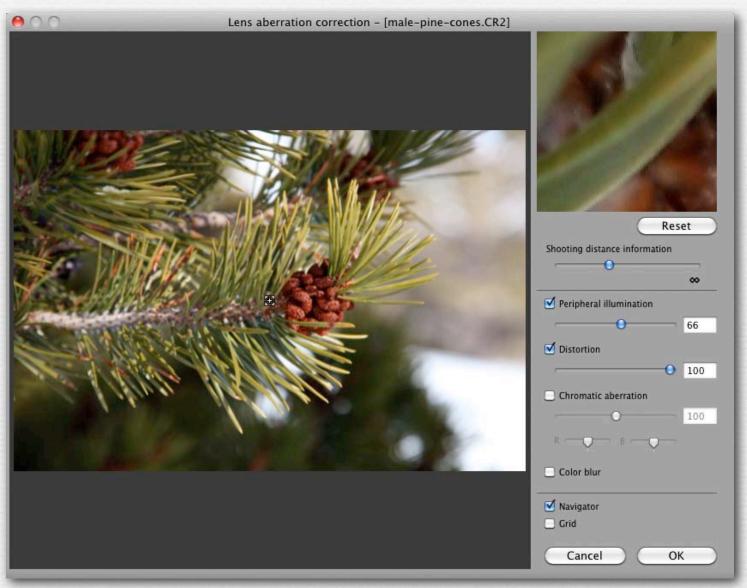
- minimally processed images, not even demosaiced
- uncompressed or losslessly compressed
- → includes metadata, possibly encrypted
- ◆ file format varies by manufacturer

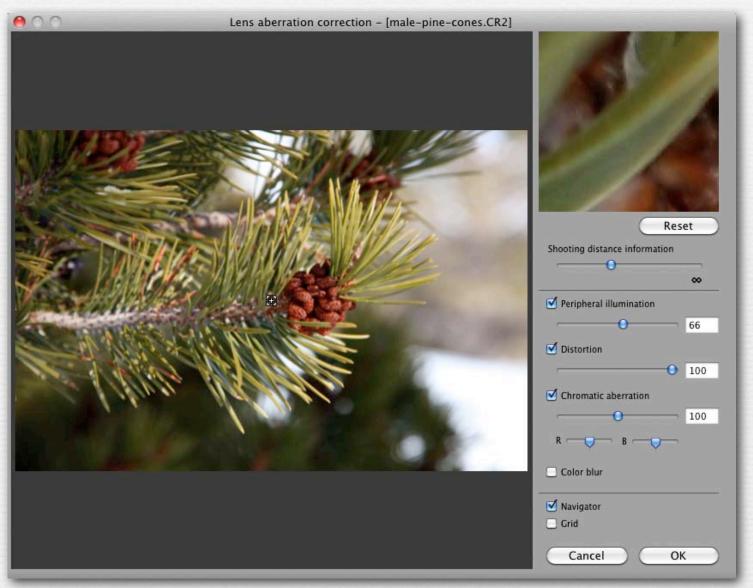


- \* example extensions: .CR2, .NEF, .RW2, .ARW
- processed and converted to a JPEG file using
  - proprietary software (e.g. Canon Digital Photo Professional)
  - Photoshop or Lightroom (if they support your camera)
  - freeware programs like dcraw
  - or in your camera (every time you store a JPEG)
  - but their processing algorithms are all different!



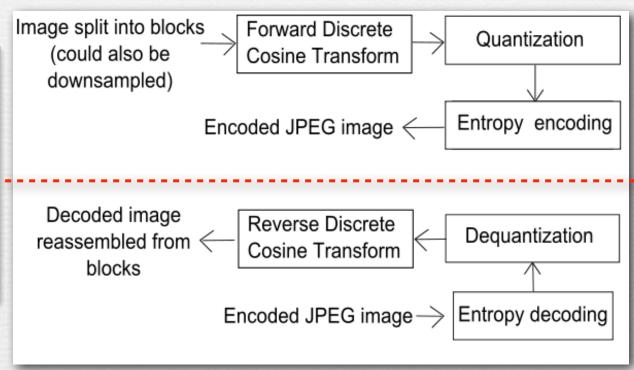






compression (in camera)

- input is Y'CbCr
- Cb and Cr typically downsampled by 2× in X and Y
- each component is compressed separately



decompression (for display)

(wikipedia)

zero-centered image

- 52
   55
   61
   66
   70
   61
   64
   73

   63
   59
   55
   90
   109
   85
   69
   72

   62
   59
   68
   113
   144
   104
   66
   73

   63
   58
   71
   122
   154
   106
   70
   69

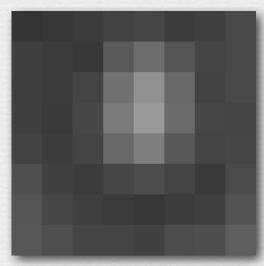
   67
   61
   68
   104
   126
   88
   68
   70

   79
   65
   60
   70
   77
   68
   58
   75

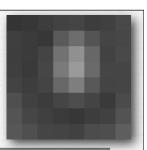
   85
   71
   64
   59
   55
   61
   65
   83

   87
   79
   69
   68
   65
   76
   78
   94
  - 8-bit image

- ♦ step #1: split into 8×8 pixel blocks
- ◆ step #2: quantize to 8 bits / pixel
- ◆ <u>step #3</u>: convert to zero-centered



8×8 pixel block



zero-centered image

$$\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \ v$$

discrete cosine transform (DCT)

- any 8×8 pixel zero-centered image can be represented by a weighted sum of the 64 8×8 pixel basis functions shown at right los
- → <u>step #4</u>: compute the weighting for each basis function using:

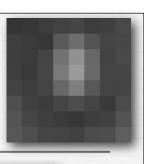
$$G_{u,v} = \alpha(u)\alpha(v)\sum_{x=0}^{7}\sum_{y=0}^{7}g_{x,y}\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{8}\left(x+\frac{1}{2}\right)u\right]\cos\left[\frac{\pi}{8}\left(y+\frac{1}{2}\right)v\right]$$



#### **JPEG**

An observant student asked why the quantization table (bin size) is not a symmetric matrix, i.e. why is its lower-left corner not equal to its upperright corner? I traced this particular table, which is frequently cited in the literature (and wikipedia) back to a psychophysical study performed in 1984 on a CRT display whose MTFs differed in the horizontal and vertical direction. For today's LCO displays, a symmetric matrix might be preferred.

r



```
    16
    11
    10
    16
    24
    40
    51
    61

    12
    12
    14
    19
    26
    58
    60
    55

    14
    13
    16
    24
    40
    57
    69
    56

    14
    17
    22
    29
    51
    87
    80
    62

    18
    22
    37
    56
    68
    109
    103
    77

    24
    35
    55
    64
    81
    104
    113
    92

    49
    64
    78
    87
    103
    121
    120
    101

    72
    92
    95
    98
    112
    100
    103
    99
```

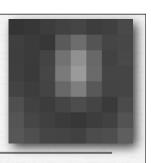
bin size for each coefficient

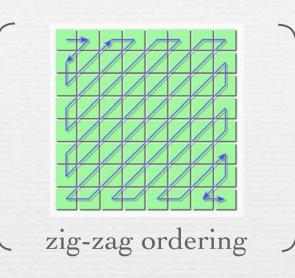
$$\begin{bmatrix} -415 & -30 & -61 & 27 & 56 & -20 & -2 & 0 \\ 4 & -22 & -61 & 10 & 13 & -7 & -9 & 5 \\ -47 & 7 & 77 & -25 & -29 & 10 & 5 & -6 \\ -49 & 12 & 34 & -15 & -10 & 6 & 2 & 2 \\ 12 & -7 & -13 & -4 & -2 & 2 & -3 & 3 \\ -8 & 3 & 2 & -6 & -2 & 1 & 4 & 2 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & -2 & -1 & -3 & 4 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -4 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \\ v$$

discrete cosine transform (DCT)

- ♦ the human visual system is more sensitive to low & mid frequencies than very high frequencies, so quantize the latter coarsely lossy
- → <u>step #5</u>: quantize the DCT coefficients using bins whose size increases with frequency

quantized DCT coefficients

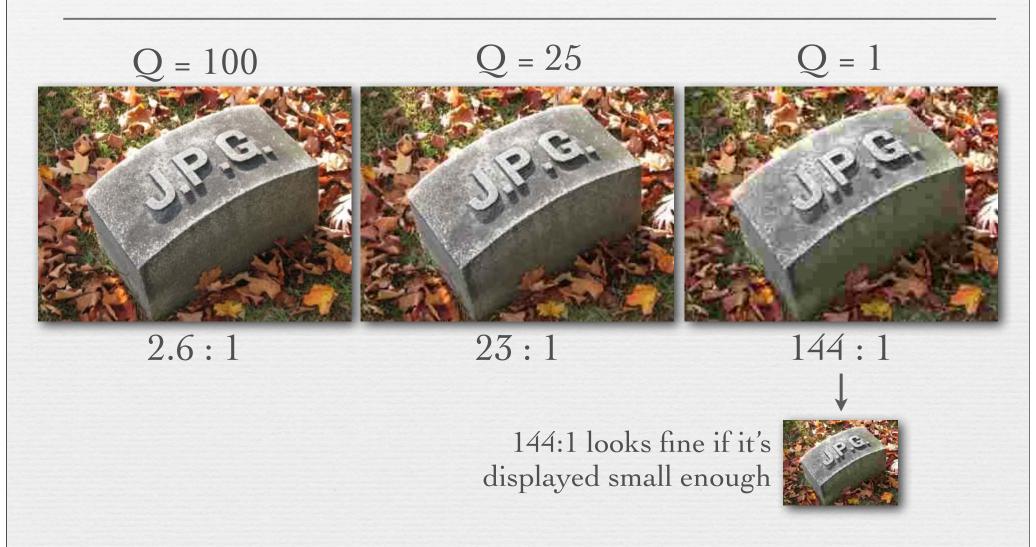




-26
-3 0
-3 -2 -6
2 -4 1 -4
1 1 5 1 2
-1 1 -1 2 0 0
0 0 0 -1 -1 EOB

- ♦ step #6: arrange the non-zero
  coefficients in zig-zag order lossless
- → <u>step #7</u>: use run-length encoding to remove repeated elements
- ★ step #8: apply Huffman coding to reduce number of bits needed for each coefficient

quantized DCT coefficients



not easily comparable to Photoshop quality numbers,
 since Adobe uses its own (proprietary) encoder

### Recap

- \* RAW files is the direct output of the camera sensor
  - not demosaiced, 16 bits per pixel, losslessly compressed
  - contains metadata, usually proprietary
- → JPEG files are a standard format for storing images
  - typically 8 bits per pixel, lossy compression
  - contains metadata in EXIF format
- → JPEG's compression format is designed to discard details
  - images are partitioned into blocks of 8 × 8 pixels
  - each block is represented by a weighted sum of cosinusoids (DCT)
  - the coefficients of high frequency cosinusoids are heavily quantized, which reduces # of bits, hence file size, but also loses images quality
  - these coefficients are losslessly compressed using Huffman coding



#### Slide credits

#### + Fredo Durand

- ♦ Wandell, B., Foundations of Vision, Sinauer, 1995.
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- Rudman, T., Photographer's Master Printing Course, Focal Press, 1998.
- Adams, A., *The Print*, Little, Brown and Co., 1980.
- Goldstein, B.E., Sensation and Perception, Wadsworth, 1999.
- ♦ Wolfe, J.M., Sensation and Perception, Sinauer, 2006.