

# Stabilized Image Segmentation in the Presence of Noise

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**Computational and Applied Mathematics**  
**Rice University**



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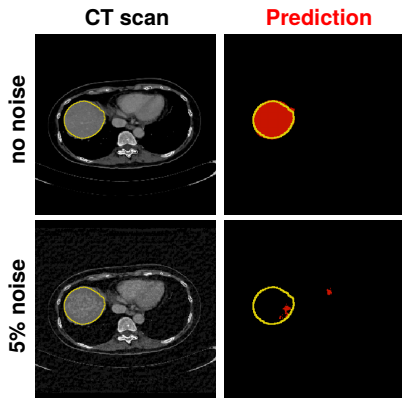


Medical image segmentation  
is corrupted by noise from:

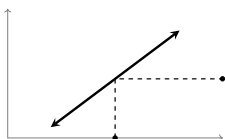
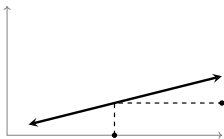
- acquisition artifacts
- image processing
- intrasite variability
- model uncertainty

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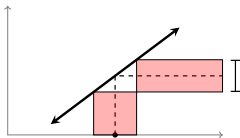
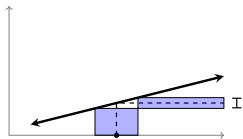
**Goal.** good segmentation  
regardless of noise.



## Observation: effect of noise depends on slope

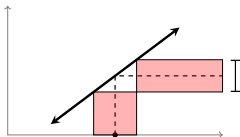
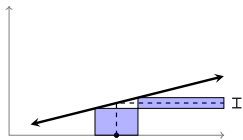


# Observation: effect of noise depends on slope

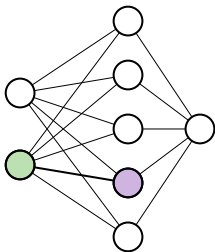


small slope,  
small change from noise

# Observation: effect of noise depends on slope



small slope,  
small change from noise

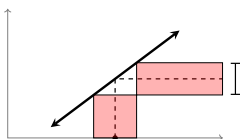
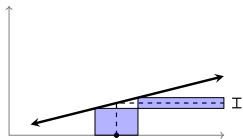


$$\begin{array}{c} x \\ x \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} K * \\ A_{[K]} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x \\ x \end{array}$$

$$K: 3 \times 3$$

$$A_{[K]}: \# \text{ pixels} \times \# \text{ pixels}$$

# Observation: effect of noise depends on slope



small slope,  
small change from noise

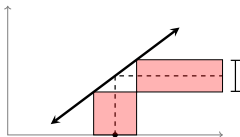
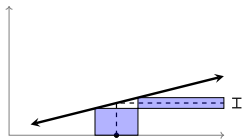
  
kernel  $K$

=  
  
matrix  $A_{[K]}$

$$\begin{array}{c} x \\ x \end{array} \mapsto \begin{array}{c} K * \\ A_{[K]} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} x \\ x \end{array}$$

$K: 3 \times 3$   
 $A_{[K]}: \# \text{ pixels} \times \# \text{ pixels}$

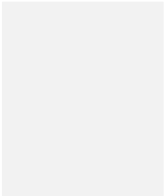
# Observation: effect of noise depends on slope



small slope,  
small change from noise

  
kernel  $K$

=

  
matrix  $A_{[K]}$

small  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2$ ,  
small change from noise

## Strategy: bound slope of $A_{[K]}$ using $K$

Reducing  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2$  requires computing  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2 \dots$

...but  $A_{[K]}$  is a **big** matrix of size  $10^8 \times 10^8$ .



## Strategy: bound slope of $A_{[K]}$ using $K$

Reducing  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2$  requires computing  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2 \dots$

$\dots$  but  $A_{[K]}$  is a **big** matrix of size  $10^8 \times 10^8$ .

Bound  $\|A_{[K]}\|_2$  instead of computing directly:

$$\|A_{[K]}\|_2 \leq \|K\|_1 \text{ (magnitude of convolution kernel)}$$

**Reducing  $\|K\|_1$  decreases effects of noise,  
and computing  $\|K\|_1$  is cheap.**

# Result: protection against imaging noise

